

THE Library Journal

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IN the Centennial year, at the Convention of Librarians held at Philadelphia, a Library Association was formed, which has already proved itself so useful that Great Britain has been moved to hold a similar convention and to found a similar association.

The aim of those who projected the American society was twofold — practical and educational; 1st, to enable librarians to do their present work more easily and at less expense; 2d, to enable some of them to do a higher work than they had yet attempted, and others to perform their highest work better. The first object has been already attained to a considerable extent. Library supplies (cards, shelf-lists, accession-books, book-covers, book-supports, revolving book-shelves, binders, numbers, call slips, and indeed every appliance pertaining specially to a library) can be had from the Supply Department of the Association at very much less than the prices which dealers had found it necessary to demand, and must have continued to demand if the Association had not taken the matter in hand. This has been accomplished by the well-known advantage which co-operation always gives, of having things manufactured in large quantities cheaply, instead of singly and dearly. Moreover, arrangements have been made by which certain parts of library work, instead of being done independently by many libraries, each laboring through the same drudgery, will be done, and done better than ever before, by a central bureau, at little more expense for all than has been hitherto paid by each. Various other suggestions for saving in time or expense have been made and discussed, and still others will from time to time be brought forward. And particularly rules have been under consideration for some time which will introduce greater uniformity and greater efficiency in cataloguing, a matter which forms a very large item in the cost of all libraries. Most public libraries spend at least twice as much for running expenses as for books; in reducing the cost of the former the Association makes it possible to buy more books or to effect a direct saving to the tax-payers.

The second part of the work laid out for the Association is not less important, and is of more general concern. It is to increase the efficiency of libraries in the education of the people. The value of libraries attached to colleges to

historical and scientific societies, and to other learned bodies, has been long acknowledged, and their methods are tolerably well settled, although there are possibilities of progress even in them which are known only to a few. But it is not so with the libraries for the unlearned. Their value is not universally granted; their methods are yet unsettled; many things are still untried; the libraries themselves are not yet in existence in all the places where they are needed; there is a crowd of doubtful questions which ought to be thoroughly discussed and viewed from every side,—the use and abuse of fiction for instance, and the possibility and best means of elevating the character of the reading; and, moreover, there is a great opportunity for giving important aid in the choice of books. To these questions the Association will address itself; and their consideration cannot fail to be of interest to all who have any care for popular education, for the progress of their fellow-men, and for the safety of their country. This may seem a large phrase; yet if there is any truth settled in political science it is that where suffrage is universal, ignorance must not be general. The two pillars of a republic, without which its fall is inevitable, are morality and intelligence. Our extensive and costly school system is nothing but a perpetual fight against ignorance, waged by the State for its own preservation; but it is a fight which, however perseveringly and successfully it is waged, too often ceases before the victory is won. The necessities of a struggle for existence take children away from school when they have little more than begun their education. We need institutions to continue the refining, enlightening work. The pulpit, the lyceum, the press, much as they effect, are not enough. They all testify to their need of the assistance of the public library. The schools teach children to read; the teachers and the librarian should (but at present generally do not) teach children how to read and what to read; the library furnishes them the books to read. It introduces them into regions of thought and learning, puts into their life possibilities of mental training and improvement which without it many would not have the slightest chance of reaching. Rich men's sons, and some poor men's sons who have suitable tastes and inclinations, go to college to complete

their education; but the vast majority cannot and do not want to go to college. Is their education, therefore, to stop and never get beyond the three R's? It need not, if their town contains a public library, in any way worthy to form a part of that great institution which has been well named of late "The People's University." It is only too evident, however, that public libraries are not yet all they should be; and to develop and improve them is the task to which the Association now addresses itself. How this is to be done, there is not space to set forth here, even if all that is possible could be foreseen. But one thing may be just mentioned. The Association intends to prepare (by means of a committee), and to publish from time to time hand-books of the best reading on various subjects, with short explanatory and critical notes. Experience has amply shown that nothing (except personal influence, which the Association also hopes to foster) tends so much to raise the character of the reading in any community as showing that community what is the best reading. There are plenty of persons who wish to improve themselves if they only knew how; and the Association believes that it is the duty, and that it is within the power of the libraries as a whole to show them how. Single libraries working by themselves find that impossible which all working together can easily accomplish.

One thing is certain, the Association needs the hearty and efficient co-operation of every friend of education throughout the country, and with such co-operation it will achieve wonders. Imagine what could be done by one associate in each town, who, thoroughly interested himself, should set to work to interest others. And he who already feels some attraction towards a good work of this kind will be much more likely to deepen and increase this interest, and will have much more influence

upon others if he feels that he is one of many all working to the same end; if, in short, he belongs to an association. Moreover, by means of reports, circulars, etc., he will then be informed of what is going on in other places, and hear of the best methods and newest ideas.

We ask you then to join, and also to induce all those within your reach—teachers, clergymen, editors, publishers, literary men, and every one interested in educational and political progress—who sympathize in these endeavors to maintain our country's fast-waning pre-eminence in popular education, to join the American Library Association.

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"It seems to me that no library can afford to do without a journal which contains so much that is suggestive and valuable. Apart from the literary information imparted, the practical hints in the direction of economy to be found in its columns should be worth more, particularly to the numerous smaller libraries of the country, than the subscription price. A single suggestion may save three times five dollars, as happened recently within my own experience. Self-interest, if no other motive, should induce every young library to subscribe to a journal so worthy of support."—S. B. Noyes, Librarian Brooklyn Mercantile Library.

"The *Journal* ought to be taken by all libraries, and especially by the small ones. I have found valuable suggestions in every number. It gives the means of communication between skilled librarians which is required for co-operation, and it makes their special knowledge available to all. Professional men who have, or who intend to have, large libraries ought by all means to take it; for it supplies just that information which they need, and which they cannot get unless they are in the immediate vicinity of a large library."—J. S. Billings, Surgeon U. S. Army, and Librarian Surgeon-General's Office, Washington, D. C.

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

ON LIBRARY LECTURES.

BY WILLIAM E. A. AXON, MANCHESTER LITERARY CLUB.

THE sight of a library is well calculated to impress upon the mind the truth that "art is long and time is fleeting." Standing in the British Museum, with its immense wealth of books, which, after all, is a mere fragment of the sum of human emotion and thought that has found expression in literature, we are conscious of the impossibility of any individual grappling with such an immense mass of printed matter. This is not an ocular deception, but a demonstrable fact. The ever-reading Magliabecchi would pant in vain to reach such a goal.

The learned and witty biographer of Casaubon has, in a recent article, taken the trouble to gauge the reading power of an intelligent student of literature. Supposing a person to read thirty pages in an hour, and to devote eight hours each day to his task, he would in the course of a year have waded through about 87,360 pages, which would be equal to 220 average octavo volumes.* How long would it take a person to assimilate the literature of the English language at such a rate of progress? A mechanical test of this kind is not without usefulness; but the ordinary observer is not struck by the difficulty in detail but in bulk. The question of selection is therefore of first-rate importance. The library, and especially the public library, is intended to

carry onward and upward the culture of the schools. Carlyle has expressed this in one of his searching passages:

"If we think of it, all that a university or final highest school can do for us, is still but what the first school began doing, teach us to read. We learn to *read*, in various languages, in various sciences; we learn the alphabet and letters of all manner of books. But the place where we are to get knowledge, even theoretic knowledge, is the books themselves! *It depends on what we read after all manner of professors have done their best for us. The true university of these days is a collection of books.*"

How are our public libraries to be made most helpful in this direction? The present system is to turn a boy raw from school into the wide field of literature, and to leave to absolute chance the course of his future reading. There is the catalogue, and he may have what he will. He may take Wordsworth or Poet Close. He may have a book of good faith or one whose author was reckless in assertion and inaccurate in argument. As often as not, a poor book is selected in place of a good one. With the limited time at command this is a grave evil. It is lamentable to see a young man, with a keen desire for knowledge, groaning over a dull and verbose volume, whilst on the same shelf from which it was taken the best book on the subject is lying

* See the article on "Books and critics," by Rev. Mark Pattison, in the *Fortnightly review*, November, 1877.

idle and unused. It is grievous to see Vanbrugh in the hands of one who is ignorant of Shakspeare. In looking back we must all regret the precious hours wasted over poetasters, pseudo-philosophers, inexact and dull historians, and dry-as-dust biographers, which might have been so delightfully employed in listening to the world's great poets, to historians who make the dead past live again, and to biographers who show the real relation of an individual atom to the great sea of humanity. Nor is it merely a question of good and bad. Whitaker's Almanac and Bacon's Essays are both *good* books; but the result of their mental assimilation would certainly not be the same.

Reading, again, may be either

. a perpetual feast
Where no crude surfeit reigns,

or it may degenerate into intellectual dram-drinking. Certainly in a crude and undeveloped form an appreciation of literature may exist even amongst those who feast on garbage. To the extent that it keeps a man physically away from worse mischief such reading may be beneficial. What is wanted is, that this taste for literature should be educated so that only the best will be acceptable, and the practice of desultory reading be converted from a mere habit into a desire for systematic study. Until this is done public libraries will not reach their maximum of usefulness. Something may be done by means of annotated catalogues, and Mr. Justin Winsor deserves our gratitude for the excellent service he has done in this direction.

One great help would be well considered courses of lectures. There are instances in which lectures of the ordinary type are given in connection with libraries, but this appears to be a mistake, or at best only a half measure. Twelve discourses each on a separate subject, wide as the poles asunder, may serve to stimulate

curiosity, but can do little more. Library lectures should have for their special object the indicating of the books on some specific topic or class of literature. If this were done, it would be found that even a comparatively small library possesses a wealth of suggestive books. The attempt to answer such questions as, What are the best writers on History? on Biography? on Philosophy? on Theology? would reveal also the strength and weakness of the collection. So with more restricted spheres of literary inquiry. What are the best books on the history of the French Revolution? or of the Spanish colonies? What is the best method of becoming acquainted with the treasures of English poetry? How are we to learn the history of the struggles which have ended in religious toleration? From what books can we discover the various modes in which men have regarded their relations to an unseen world? These, and a hundred similar, are the questions now occurring to those who wish to carry on their own education, and to which at present there is no available reply. They feel that they are groping in the dark, and become disheartened. The keen interest in intellectual study which they felt at first becomes deadened, and even those who persist lose much valuable time.

The lecturer should be a man conversant with the bibliography of his subject. The good, bad, and indifferent authors who have written upon it should be discriminated. Those who have become obsolete as to facts, though still valuable for their method of interpretation, should be separated from the mere bookmakers. Any bias of a political, religious, or social character should be pointed out. The lectures should be brief and pointed, showing how to carry on that process of inquiry, comparison, acceptance, and rejection of the views of many minds by which an independent judgment is formed. The object would be, not to save the hearers the

trouble of reading, but to show them how to read to the greatest advantage. The lectures *would not* supersede the work of the library by stuffing the mind with facts and opinions ready made. They *would* direct the earnest but uninformed as to what books are most helpful, and how they can best be used.

In every town where a library exists, it would not be a difficult task to get men of ripe knowledge to step out from the seclusion of their studies, and give to their fellow-citizens advice as to choice of books and courses of reading. Thus the usefulness of the public library would be increased in an extraordinary degree.

THE CHIEF NEED IN LIBRARIES.

BY FREDERIC VINTON, LIBRARY OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY.

WHOEVER examines the condition of American libraries, as indicated by their printed catalogues, must be struck with the fact that the smaller have been much better cared for than the larger. While almost every considerable town in New England has its public library, rendered accessible to the public by its catalogue, indicating both authors and subjects, the large libraries of this country, whether collegiate or metropolitan, have either no catalogue, or none such as represent their recent acquisitions; or merely alphabetical lists of authors' names, wholly useless for purposes of research. With the shining exception of the Boston collections, not a single great library in this country has a classified catalogue—such a one, that is, as enables the student of any topic represented in them, to learn what they contain suited to his purpose. The Astor Library in New York, the Library Company in Philadelphia, the Congressional Library in Washington, the libraries of the law-schools, the theological seminaries, and the institutions of academic education, have no printed catalogues, or only lists of authors' names. Along the walls of their venerable saloons stand long lines of folios, or lesser volumes, uselessly accumulated, because inadequately catalogued. From year to year, along those Appian ways, the Scipios of knowledge, conquerors of so many prov-

inces of learning, sleep in dishonorable dust, awaiting resurrection at the call of intelligent librarians.

The ground of this neglect, it will be explained by the officers of such institutions, is that it is impossible for the chief librarian alone to accomplish the enormous task, and that he has no sufficient force of assistants. But why not? Munificently appointed as these institutions are, in respect to books and buildings, how is it that the stream of beneficence runs dry just soon enough to leave unserviceable all that has actually been provided? It is no ingratitude to those who have given so much, to say that for want of giving more, or at least of giving a right direction to part of their gifts, the whole remains unfruitful.

Imagine a man of genius arriving from the depth of the country at one of our large cities, and finding his way to the front of some templed structure, where, he has been told, are accumulated books fit to answer all the questions he has revolved. His heart swells high with admiration and gratitude. He enters, and proposes some of his doubts. He is told that the library is thought to contain something upon that subject, or what is like it, but it cannot instantly be found! A catalogue of authors' names is put into his hands; and, after hours of turning it over, he retires, weary, disappointed, disgusted. To what purpose

are, for *him*, the costly architecture, the populous alcoves?

Or suppose, in a college library, where every department has been carefully arranged, the student is allowed to go among the shelves and seek for himself the knowledge he desires. Ten to one he will not find it; for it is hidden in the heart of a book whose title does not indicate it. His time is wasted and his labor lost. The interior of the whole pyramid should have been explored for him by a torch-bearer, and all the turnings of the way mapped out. The work of weeks might then be done in hours, and the short student life practically lengthened by years.

Our great libraries, and vastly more those of the Old World, are the cemeteries of learning, the cities of buried knowledge.

Let Schliemann, let Cesnola dig. In every one of them are thousands and thousands of books which have never been opened, because nobody knows they are there, for want of a catalogue, or at least a catalogue of subjects. The thing most needed in them is an increased force of librarians, to open every neglected book, every volume of miscellaneous writings, every collection of pamphlets. A thousand times over it will be found that they disclose information vainly sought when occasion required it, though all the while it was so near. A more useful result cannot proceed from the forming of the Library Association, than if it should lead those who have money to give to learn from its experienced members that exhaustive cataloguing is the chief way to secure through libraries the public good.

THE SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR POPULAR LIBRARIES.

BY H. A. HOMES, N. Y. STATE LIBRARY, ALBANY.

IT is not intended, in the following remarks on the selection of books for popular libraries, to discuss the subject at large, but merely to glance at one of its aspects.

The proper selection of books for the largest libraries (which are chiefly for reference) is best secured by the co-operation of persons employed in them, who have special departments in their charge, and at regular intervals hand in lists of books to be purchased to the superintendent. Or the latter may obtain the services of specialists outside of the library in as many branches as he may think necessary. In conjunction with this method of procedure, the British Museum and the Boston Public Library welcome inquiries for books from any individuals. They treat them as recommendations of books to be purchased when signed by the name of the applicant; and in the "Hand-book for readers" of the Boston Lib-

rary it is said, "the book will be procured as soon as possible, unless there is some special reason for not purchasing it." In the year 1872, of 1067 volumes thus recommended in that library, 1008 were acquired by the library, and 785 of them subsequent to the recommendations. But a similar promise can only be made by libraries of large resources and of encyclopedic aims. Sooner or later also, all the books on a given subject of every grade of value must necessarily find their way to their shelves. For if the method of selection first mentioned were thoroughly organized, few desirable books would escape recognition.

The smaller libraries, the free town libraries for popular reading, need a different kind of aid in the selection of their books, aid which must be perpetually renewed. Their popular aims and their moderate resources alike forbid that they should engage to purchase, with few exceptions, all books

that may be inquired for or recommended by unknown persons. The volumes of guides to suitable books for reading, like those of F. B. Perkins' "The best reading," Pres. Porter's "Books and reading," C. H. Moore's "What to read," etc., are of great convenience in the formation of this class of libraries.* But after they have aided in the selection of the books printed previous to their publication, these guides can give no further help. Yet the testimony of librarians would be that readers crave chiefly to obtain the latest published books of fiction, light literature, history, and philosophy. Now, what is the best mode to secure a reliable and safe guide for the monthly purchases of the latest books?

The great range of choice is indicated by a single fact. The London *Athenæum*, in the year 1876, under its weekly heading of "Novels of the week," reviewed 218 novels. This list did not include, of course, any of the juvenile fictions or the Christmas stories, or more than a very small proportion of the American fictions. How shall librarians be guided in choosing from these fictions for their libraries? From statistics of novels found to be most salable in the bookstores, given in the *Publishers' Weekly* of May 20, 1876, I infer that the novels "most inquired for" in the libraries are those of which the fewest in number are sold in the bookstores; while those which are most sold to individual purchasers are those which had received universal approbation as works of superior art and genius. The inference is unavoidable that those "most inquired for" were not those which were best adapted to secure the intellectual and moral elevation of the readers of the libraries. In regard to books in other branches of literature and knowledge, the testimony of many librarians would be that readers, whether asking for books to read from the

library catalogue or for books which they desire should be purchased, frequently know nothing of their character beyond the titles. It would oftener than otherwise be a hurtful and expensive mistake to purchase books on that principle.

No persons in the community are more solicitous on this subject than trustees of libraries and librarians. It is one of such great relative importance as regards the usefulness of the "people's university" that the attempt is worth making (and all manner of suggestions should be welcomed), to devise a best method of furnishing thousands of librarians with impartial lists from month to month of unexceptionable books for purchase, especially of works of fiction and of light literature. Is it possible, for example, that readers of good taste and judgment could be found who would regularly send the titles of such as they had read and approved as suitable for general reading, for publication in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*?* The remarks of Mr. P. Cowell, of the Liverpool Library, at the London Conference of Librarians are of great value and interest in this connection.

A large part of the reading in public town libraries is done by persons under twenty-one years of age. For many Sunday-school libraries it has been found necessary to adopt a rule that no book should be received which had not previously been read and approved by a committee of the school, notwithstanding it had been written, approved, and published expressly for Sunday-schools. Is it not even more important and urgent to secure, by some similar measure, that the books to be loaned from institutions so influential as free town libraries should have some such guarantee that they will be works elevating and ennobling to the minds of their readers?

* The Tenth Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Illinois (Dr. N. Bateman), 1874, contains a very ample list of books for town libraries.

* The *Scitell Franklin* of France publishes every month just such a list of books suitable for public libraries, with brief descriptions and notices. A similar plan for American libraries is in contemplation as a part of Association and Journal work, and suggestions sent to the *JOURNAL* will be gratefully considered.—Ed.

THE STANDARD OF LIBRARY SERVICE.

BY J. D. MULLINS, BIRMINGHAM FREE LIBRARY.

AT the London Conference of Librarians it was said by one speaker, "that to properly fill the office of a librarian required the best qualities of a scholar, a gentleman, and a man of business;" by another, that the librarian "who reads is lost." This put into prose may mean that the librarian must have a power of readily apprehending the general character of books, and a desire rather to expend his knowledge for the benefit of others than to store and add to it for his own delight only.

The increase of free libraries has been much more rapid than the growth of trained officers. This has led to some melancholy appointments. Committees, naturally anxious to secure persons who have some knowledge of free library work, have selected young fellows, who have had no more knowledge of a library than is implied in dusting its shelves or putting its books in numerical order; men who cannot write a page of English without blunders of spelling and grammar, and who have no feeling for books beyond a few low-class novels, to whom the salary is all, and the users of the library a nuisance to be discouraged, or, on the other hand, to be made use of, by getting for them abundance of three-volume novels, the discarded waste of defunct circulating libraries, bought at fourpence-half-penny a volume, splendidly calculated to run up the statistics of "books added" and "issued," but as far from doing the educational work of a free library, or the honorable work of a librarian, as distance can make them. Of course, such men as these serve for low salaries, which shock respectable people to hear of; but low as their salaries are, they may quite equal the worth of the article.

Without putting the standard too high, I should say that a librarian, without neces-

sarily being a classical scholar, should yet have made himself so much acquainted with the translation of the Greek or Latin authors as to know that Caesar's Commentaries were not of the same character as Matthew Henry's or Adam Clarke's; that Ovid did not write the *Anabasis*, or Xenophon the *Iliad*; that Horace did not write the Peloponnesian War, or Thucydides the *Georgics*; that Plautus was not one of the "fathers," and Origen did not write comedies.

I knew one librarian who started the class HISTORY with Washington Irving's Knickerbocker's 'New York,' and who assisted an inquirer who wanted information as to a bust of Lord Nelson, to the "Statutes at Large;" and another who advocated the shutting up of his news room and free library for an hour or two in the middle of the day, because so many working-men came in to read in the dinner-hour. Another, a tolerably well-paid official of a large town, found it possible to follow several avocations—part lawyer's clerk, part commercial traveller, and the rest "librarian." To those who have given their lives to learn and do the work of rightly managing a library, that such men as I have described call themselves "librarians" seems something like an imposture.

Some small wit, in lively scorn, just now wrote half contemptuously of librarians as "literary butlers." Well, there is something in the description after all. If the "butler" knows well each vintage, and good wine from bad, he is valuable, and often knows more than his master. But a butler who does not know claret from champagne, or old port from madeira, is as great an anomaly as some librarians.

If an honest man takes the office of a parson, he is at least expected to teach good

morals; if he takes the office of a school-master, he will strive to use the best methods of teaching; or if such a man takes the office of librarian, he strives to know and to get for his readers the best books of every kind, as far as the means at his disposal will permit, and he will be glad to help undecided readers in their choice. Take a youth who wants to read that portion of the history of England which relates to the Anglo-Saxon period, and I will find you librarians who will refer him to Lord Macaulay's History; it is the first that strikes them, and never having looked at a "history book" since they left school, they do not know any better. Is it too much to

ask that a man applying for a librarianship should be able to answer questions as to the principal English historians, and the times to which their works relate—whether Lingard was a fanatical Protestant, or Froude a furious Papist?

Will some one avenge a hard-working librarian on mere moths by mercifully drawing up a curriculum or an examination which every candidate for a librarianship shall be required to pass?

I have just now before me over two hundred applications for a librarianship, and just in proportion as the candidate knows nothing of the work is he confident of his fitness for the post.

BOOK-AUCTION CATALOGUES AND THEIR PERILS.

BY A. R. SPOFFORD, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

ABSOLUTE accuracy is the rarest of human qualities. Byron celebrates the class of writers and speakers, abounding in every country,

"With just enough of learning to misquote,"

and the reign of error is nowhere more prevalent than in the majority of attempts to report the titles of books. A great many printed catalogues for book auctions, while they are by no means prepared with intent to deceive, scatter perils in the path of the unsophisticated collectors who seek to increase their libraries by this method. Passing by the cheap run of auction catalogues, in which the titles are slung pell-mell into print from the lettering on the backs of the books, without even a date or other description, let us look at the errors which creep into catalogues claiming to be carefully edited.

Last year a sale of finely illustrated works in one of our great cities called forth a sumptuously printed catalogue with long bibliographical notes to almost every title. In this list, Marsigli's great work on the

Danube appeared as by Marsli; T. H. King's "Study Book of Mediæval Architecture" was catalogued as by J. H. Knight; Gruner's "Bas-Reliefs of Orvieto Cathedral" was advertised as illustrating the Cathedral of Oroieb; Clerck's "Vues Pittoresques" became "Bues Pottaresgues;" Rumphius, the old botanical writer, became Rumphinus; Tornielli was metamorphosed into Tornelli; Peter Coxe into Peter Case; Dagley into Dayley; the "Hesperides, sive de malorum aureorum cultura et usu," of Ferrarii, suffered a fearful and wonderful change into a treatise "De Malarum Avre-arum Cultura et Uses;" while our old friend "The Laird of Norlaw" became the Laird of Nartaw.

In most of these cases, of course, any intelligent bibliographer would be competent to make his own corrections; but in many others it would require much ingenuity, as well as perspicacity and knowledge of editions, to avoid buying what might turn out to be duplicates. Thus, in a recent catalogue, was put down a "History of the County of York, by N. Whittock,"

which I should assuredly have ordered but that I found out, just in time, that the book could be no other than Thomas Allen's *History of York*, "with views on steel from drawings by N. Whittock;" yet no trace whatever of the true author appeared in the catalogue. In many auction catalogues the names of translators figure as authors. Let no man buy "Baker's *History of Rome*," under the delusion that he is getting a new work, for he will find it is his old acquaintance Livy, translated by Baker. Rochefort's "*History of the Caribbee Islands*," published anonymously, is almost always catalogued as by John Davies, the translator. You frequently meet with "Thompson (G. A.) *Geographical and Historical Dictionary of the West Indies*," which is Alcedo's work translated by Thompson. The only safety, in the case of imperfectly known works, is for the librarian to cumber his catalogue by inserting in the alphabet the name of every translator and illustrator (at least by cross reference), as well as of every author.

The absence of a keen-eyed proof-reader is frequently to be deplored in offices which set up catalogues once correctly written. "Lady Mortly's *Travels in the United States*" (for Lady Wortley); Brasius on *Storms* for Blasius; Lower's "*Patronymica Botanica*" for Britannica; "Life of Dr. Boyle," for Dr. Doyle; "The Bottom of the Sea, by L. Sorrel," for Sonrel, are among the multitudinous blunders of a single brief catalogue now before me. While these and other typographical errors are easily detected by one familiar with books, what should even the most careful and intelligent searcher of titles do with "Anderson's *Lectures on Shakspeare*," which he innocently orders, believing he has got a new book till he opens his parcel and finds H. N. Hudson's "*Lectures on Shakspeare*," which has been on his shelves a quarter of a century? In a recent catalogue, G. W. Holly's book on Niagara is set down as "Magra, by G. H. Holly;" "Gan Eden,

or Pictures of Cuba," becomes "Gov. Edan;" Ruffin on *Calcareous Manures* is thus catalogued: "144. Calcarious Manners, Ruffin; 12mo, cloth." In the same catalogue the *Memoirs of James, Earl Waldegrave*, a single quarto volume, is thus split into two books, neither of which has any existence as described:

"344. *Memoirs from 1754 to 1758*, by James."

"345. *Earl Waldegrave, afterwards George III.*"

Now the title-page describes Waldegrave, who wrote the "*Memoirs*," as "Governor to the Prince of Wales, afterwards George III."

Lot 480 reads—"Life of Capt. Cresap, by Jacob Small, 4to, Cinn., 1860."

The eager librarian who would like to possess Jacob Small's "*Life of Cresap*," will please punctuate his catalogue so as to exhibit the *Life of Cresap* by Jacob, small 4to.

Here is another equally lucid title set up by some intelligent compositor:

"674. Great; or, ex-Summer Etchings in Colorado." With proper regard to facts and the rights of syllables, the discerning reader will have little difficulty in recognizing Mrs. Greator's "*Summer Etchings in Colorado*" in this extraordinary title.

In all these cases, where a library finds itself saddled with a duplicate through erroneous description in the catalogue, the right to return the book seems clear. The auctioneer in whose mind fair dealing is instinctively associated with a large business and public confidence is well satisfied that the interest of his customers is, in the long run, his own. None the less important is it, however, that the standard of auction catalogues should be raised; that no book should be described without carefully printing place and date of publication, with author's name, and that every auction house which sells libraries frequently should have at least one competent bibliographer in its employ.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

APRIL, 1878.

Communications for the JOURNAL, and all inquiries concerning it, should be addressed to MELVIN DEWEY, 32 Hawley Street, Boston. Also library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances. European matter may be forwarded through E. B. NICHOLSON, London Institution, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.

Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to F. LEYBOLDT, P. O. Box 6295, New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.

Exchanges and editors' copies should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 37 Park Row, New York.

The JOURNAL addresses itself exclusively to library interests, admitting to its advertising as well as to its reading-matter columns only what concerns the librarian as librarian. It does not undertake to review books unless specially relating to library and bibliographical topics.

The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor always for the style of capitalization, etc., in signed articles.

Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of ten cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.

IN the work of popular education through libraries, it is, after all, not the few great libraries, but the thousand small that may do most for the people. And it is these that should profit most, in the long run, by the co-operation through which the resources and the experience of the large libraries, and the practical suggestions of library workers in all fields, are applied to the saving of labor, of time, and of money, and to the improvement of the library and of the librarian's position. It is these that cannot afford *not* to take the JOURNAL, because the five dollars which it costs to bring to them these new resources is sure to save to the smallest library ten or twenty or fifty dollars, or to enable that much to be added to its returns. A library that has but fifty dollars income may receive hints which will double that. Among many features of the present issue, the article on the Cornwall Library is particularly in point. This library took from the JOURNAL the suggestion of an advertising catalogue; the result was a catalogue that cost nothing, made a hundred dollars profit, and proved the means of extending the patronage of the library to a still greater amount. In

turn, the new application of advertising panels, the ambulatory libraries, and the library entertainments, suggested from this most enterprising little village, will give other libraries hints of value, and, what is more, of money value. This is what a small library obtains by its support of the JOURNAL—unless, indeed, it prefers to take what it can, without paying for it—and we cannot urge too strongly, for their benefit as well as our own, that librarians of village libraries should insist to their trustees on having the means of co-operation and communication thus offered.

WHAT books shall be bought?—what kinds of books? and what books of their kinds?—is almost the vital question in all libraries, most pressing in the smallest, which have least to spend for books and most need to foster public appreciation. Shall we have fiction or no fiction, or shall we have George Eliot only and not Mrs. Holmes? "The public library is not to be the private workshop for the few scholars." "The public library is not to pander to depraved popular tastes." These are growl and counter-growl. The subject is variously and profitably touched upon in this issue. It may be added that the growlers often overlook the double nature of the functions of a library, emphasized in England by the common division into reference and lending departments. Probably, with the higher degree of organization that comes of social progress, the few great libraries,—possibly drawing more for this purpose from private funds for the endowment of research than from general taxation,—will magnify their reference departments, and become, rejecting nothing and destroying nothing, enormous centralized repositories for all literary productions; while the system of library exchanges, already set on foot, offering the riches of such institutions to the clients of local libraries, will reconcile the latter to their normal position of limiting their reference departments to the usual requirements of their constituency, induce them to labor for the completeness of their "head centres," by acting as collectors and storing pamphlets, etc., with these, and enable them to dispose, from time to time, of superseded books for which their shelves no longer afford room.

THE question of circulation is another matter, and most local libraries must win public support from this side. We suppose all would agree upon these simple principles—(1) a library

must not circulate bad books; (2) it must, within this limit, give the public the books it wants; (3) it must teach it to want better books. These afford, in general, plain sailing, bad books meaning immoral books, books absolutely hurtful. But there are those who would exclude under that term respectively unliterary books, bad in style; "sensational" books; all fiction; books religiously unorthodox. It is sufficient to reply that books for reading are of no use unless read, and that if you can get a man to reading he is sure, as Mr. Hale would say, to read "up and not down." The missionary societies, for instance, do great good with their libraries for sailors, but they would accomplish vastly more, for religion as well as for education, if they did not forget these facts. "Lives of bishops and other fools—only two books in the whole lot you'd ever see a man read," was the *brusque* verdict from a certain fore-castle, where one of these collections had evidently provoked profanity instead of repressing it. Ten live books that would give a man a thirst for reading, and so for higher things, would have been worth twice the forty. The local library may well keep this illustration in mind. As to what books individually are to be chosen, the question is not so simple, and it becomes more distressing with the increase of books. But this also will be much simplified in the progress of co-operation. Mr. Cutter's bulletin, Mr. Perkins' supplements to his "Best Reading," and their like, already give some help (though after the event), and all libraries should have them; the projected notes to publishers' title-slips, when we get them, will be of more prompt service, and ultimately it is to be hoped the JOURNAL may present suggestive lists from month to month, as, on a limited scale, the *Literary World* (an excellent library help) is already doing.

THE relations of the larger to the smaller libraries suggested above will receive further development if ever Mr. Durfee's suggestion of "correspondence departments," or Prof. Mallet's discovery of a new library profession, is generally applied. Meanwhile the former do very great service by offering their elaborate catalogues for the general benefit—often, in accordance with a growing tendency to circulate catalogues at a nominal cost or even give them away, at less than the cost of paper and print. The catalogue (we think of no adjective

that fitly praises it) of the Brooklyn Mercantile Library, of which the second third is nearly completed, is offered at about three-fourths the simple cost of manufacture, regardless of the main expense, the preparation. The first third (in muslin, at \$1.75) is the cheapest reference book offered the general reader, for it contains a mine of information not found elsewhere in libraries. Praise it as we may, the ugly fact comes up constantly that much of this work, which costs so much, is being repeated at the same expense by others. The result is worth all its cost even now; but we must hasten the day when the work once done shall be done for all, when the remarkable excellence of Mr. Noyes' catalogue shall be the common property of the rest, and he will share equally in the best work of other librarians. While waiting for the "Coming Catalogue," this book will do admirable service in other libraries, by checking off or inserting in the margin the call numbers of books in the local collection. This is nearly the plan recommended by Mr. Rossiter Johnson elsewhere; only in the partnership, the rest let Brooklyn do all the work and pay all the bills.

It is of the utmost importance to the popular library that it should use every available means of interesting the people. Mr. Axon makes an important suggestion in his paper on library lectures; library conversational receptions is another novel and fruitful idea; and if a librarian is to do his best work, he must take pains to enlist early in his efforts the editors, teachers, and preachers of his community. Each of these should be in hearty sympathy with the work of the library, and on all fitting occasions should point out the best books and methods, thus serving as "drummers" for the librarian, whose duties confine him too closely to allow of direct recruiting. The press is probably the most valuable of the three, for everybody reads the papers, though a lamentably large number never read a good book. Some librarians—e.g., in Providence—appreciate this all-important leverage, and persistently incite the people to come to the library for its best books, by baiting them through the daily and weekly papers. Here is one hint for librarians who ask "How shall we increase interest?" Others will be frequently found in our department of "Notes and Queries," a practical feature of the JOURNAL, to which we propose to give more extended attention.

THE particular piece of co-operative cataloguing for which we are to be indebted—and how much indebted!—to Mr. Poole, really calls out the most general interest of any thing now in progress. The report of the Committee, that all the serials, except certain English journals, are placed, and the letters of Dr. Cox and Mr. Harrison, showing that these, and perhaps others, will be taken care of in England, will be received with universal satisfaction. The list of libraries suggests pleasantly how creditable a number already lend a hand in co-operative work. Mr. Poole, we are glad to say, will print in the next JOURNAL an explanation of the improvements on the edition of 1853, which he proposes in the new edition—a matter which has been much discussed. He does not propose, it may be well to say here, any thing approaching a catalogue *raisonné*, or classed catalogue, as a reference to the previous report of the Committee will show, nor did our remarks in the March issue favor such a scheme. The general plan of the earlier work will be preserved; and indeed what is chiefly needed is simply that this plan shall be consistently carried out, with sufficient cross-referencing. What this implies we shall be better able to discuss in our next issue, in connection with Mr. Poole's article.

We introduce in this issue, by arrangement with the *Publishers' Weekly*, a new advertising feature intended to meet a frequent demand of librarians—the means of obtaining desired volumes, for the completion of sets or to fill out a special department, and of selling or exchanging duplicates. Under this arrangement, the *Publishers' Weekly* offers to the subscribers of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, as well as to its own, the privilege of free insertion of the titles of such books, subject, in place of advertising rates, to a charge of 10 per cent, divided equally between both sides, on actual transactions. It is proposed to select from the *Publishers' Weekly* columns, for insertion in the JOURNAL, such lists as particularly interest librarians, and we expect the "Accommodation Department" will prove particularly beneficial to libraries whose paucity of means compels their conductors to keep on the watch for tempting offers. There are many libraries, also, that have on their shelves duplicates or editions useless where they are, but elsewhere of use and therefore of exchangeable value. To such, also, the feature will be of real service.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

POOLE'S INDEX COMMITTEE—SIXTH REPORT

THE Committee of the American Library Association, to whom was referred the subject of completing a new edition of Poole's "Index to Periodical Literature," are happy to report that the American librarians have promptly responded to the Committee's appeal for co-operation in this undertaking; and that the work of indexing the entire list of one hundred and eighty-two serials named in the Committee's report of September 4th, 1877, is now distributed among them, with the exception of twelve serials reserved for the English libraries to index, and four which no library has reported itself as possessing. The co-operating libraries are the following:

Albany, N. Y., New York State Library.
Amherst, Mass., Amherst College Library.
Baltimore, Md., Mercantile Library.
" " Peabody Institute Library.
Berkeley, Cal., University of California Library.
Boston, Mass., Boston Athenæum.
" " N. E. Historic Genealogical Society.
" " Public Library.
Brookline, Mass., Public Library.
Brooklyn, N. Y., Mercantile Library.
Burlington, Vt., Fletcher Free Library.
" " University of Vermont Library.
Cambridge, Mass., Harvard College Library.
Chicago, Ill., Public Library.
Concord, Mass., Public Library.
Concord, N. H., New Hampshire State Library.
Geneseo, N. Y., Wadsworth Seminary Library.
Gettysburg, Pa., Theological Seminary Library.
Hartford, Conn., Hartford Library Association.
" " Trinity College Library.
" " Watkinson Library.
Haverhill, Mass., Public Library.
Indianapolis, Ind., Public Library.
Ithaca, N. Y., Cornell University Library.
Lawrence, Mass., Public Library.
Madison, Wis., Wisconsin State Historical Society.
Middletown, Conn., Wesleyan University Library.
Minneapolis, Minn., University of Minnesota Library.
New Bedford, Mass., Public Library.
New Haven, Conn., Yale College Library.
New York City, Apprentices' Library.
" " " Astor Library.
" " " Mercantile Library.
" " " Young Men's Christian Association.
Peabody, Mass., Peabody Institute Library.
Philadelphia, Pa., Philadelphia Library Company.
" " " Mercantile Library.
Princeton, N. J., College of New Jersey Library.
Rochester, N. Y., Rochester University Library.
St. Louis, Mo., Public School Library.
Salem, Mass., Essex Institute Library.
San Francisco, Cal., Mercantile Library.
Washington, D. C., Library of Congress.
Waterbury, Conn., Bronson Library.

In making the allotments, the size and working force of the libraries were considered. The Committee desire to tender their thanks to their brethren in charge of these libraries for the cordial support and sympathy they have received in performing this delicate duty. In many instances the task was assumed by those who were already overworked in their official positions; but they willingly took their share of the labor, knowing that it would occupy time assigned to them for rest and recreation.

The Committee attended the meetings of the Conference of English Librarians at London in October last, and, under instructions from the American Library Association, presented the plan of the new Index to the Conference. The co-operation of the English librarians was asked in carrying it out. The proposition was favorably commented upon, and a special committee was appointed on the subject, consisting of Mr. Robert Harrison, of the London Library; Mr. R. E. Graves, of the British Museum; and Mr. J. D. Mullins, of the Birmingham Free Library. An interview with these gentlemen was held after the adjournment of the Conference. They expressed their interest in the object, but had a doubt whether the English librarians could be brought to act upon any co-operative plan so promptly as could the Americans, who have been longer working together. Up to this time no report of progress has been received from the English Committee.

The discussion of the subject in the English Conference suggested the plan of forming an Index Society for doing this and similar work, having a membership and income both within and without the library profession. The formation of such a society was advocated in the *Athenæum* and other public prints, and shortly after such a society was formed in London. In the scheme of proposed special work, which the Society has issued, no mention is made of indexing periodicals, or of the plan adopted by the American Library Association. The Secretary of the Society has since explained the omission, by stating that while the members were interested in the American plan, it was omitted from the Society's scheme because it had been referred to a special committee of English librarians, who had the matter under consideration, and would soon report. The Society did not like to interfere with their action by assuming the work, or any part of it, themselves.

The following list of English serials have not

yet been assigned: *Academy*, *Artizan*, *Athenæum*, *Economist*, *Examiner*, *Literary Gazette*, *Newton's London Journal of Arts*, *Nautical Magazine*, *Practical Mechanic's Journal*, *Saturday Review*, *Spectator*, and *United Service Journal*. These serials have been reserved to be indexed in Great Britain—where their contents are of more practical importance than in America—in the event that some English libraries may wish to co-operate with their American brethren, and make the work an international one. In case no such co-operation is proffered, these serials will probably be omitted.

No library has reported itself as having a set of either of the following serials: *Graham's Magazine*, *Northwestern Review*, *Our Monthly*, and *Peterson's Magazine*. The Committee will be glad to hear from any library, public or private, which has a set of either of these serials, or any considerable parts of a set.

The Committee beg to suggest to the co-operating librarians the importance of the work of indexing being done in an uniform and systematic manner; and to secure this result, they ask for a strict conformity to the rules for indexing and the general principles of the plan laid down in the Committee's previous reports. (LIBRARY JOURNAL, vol. i., pp. 181, 286, 324, and 365.) These rules may not cover all the points of difficulty and doubt that may suggest themselves. Mr. William I. Fletcher, associate editor, Watkinson Library, Hartford, Conn., has charge of the correspondence relating to the method of indexing, and to him communications on the subject may be addressed. It is recommended that each indexer send a few of his early specimen-sheets to Mr. Fletcher, who will revise and return them with his suggestions. Correspondence concerning the distribution of work, or the general business of the undertaking, may be addressed to Mr. William F. Poole, Public Library, Chicago.

It is expected that the work allotted will be completed during the next six months, and sent in to one of the editors as early as possible.

JUSTIN WINSOR,
WILLIAM F. POOLE,
CHARLES A. CUTTER, } Committee.

ADDENDUM: THE INDEX IN ENGLAND.

SINCE the report of the Index Committee was prepared, letters have been received from Dr. H. O. Coxe of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and Mr. Robert Harrison, of the London Library, who is Chairman of the English Con-

ference Committee which has the subject in charge. As there is much interest among the American librarians to learn whether they are to have the co-operation of the English librarians in this undertaking, it has been thought best to print portions of these letters, which though not written for publication, are highly creditable to their authors, and will foster that international sympathy which was happily inaugurated at the late English Conference.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY, March 22, 1878.

DEAR MR. POOLE:—I can only at present offer you my warmest sympathy in your work. . . . I have at this moment a proposal before my board to index our periodicals and other "collectaneous" literature; and if this is accepted, I would take such serials as you have not otherwise placed out. This would seem but fair, as we would adopt your labor for very many that we should otherwise have been obliged to do for ourselves. If you will therefore let me know what English periodicals you have in hand, I will act accordingly, and, if my proposal be accepted, might be able to let you have duplicate slips of our work. If the British Museum, Cambridge, Dublin, and Edinburgh libraries would lend a hand in a like direction, by such a division of labor the work might the more easily be done. Let me have from you your plan of operations, and suggestions on what I have said above.

Very truly yours, H. O. COXE.

LONDON LIBRARY,
12 ST. JAMES SQUARE, LONDON, }
March 28, 1878.

DEAR MR. POOLE:—You seem to have a vast deal more leisure for public-spirited work in the States than we Britishers have. Your admirable letters, stirring us up on the subject of your new Index to Periodical Literature, have reached me from many quarters, and made me feel ashamed of my backwardness. I have drawn up a short report, to be presented next week to the Library Association, and have suggested that they should send a circular to all the librarians in the United Kingdom, asking them to undertake some portion of the work you require. To give effect to the suggestion, I want a precise list of the periodicals that your enthusiastic fellow-countrymen have not taken up, that we may know what have yet to be done. Kindly send me this list. . . . In all candor I must say, as I said at the Conference, that I am not sanguine of getting much

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gratuitous work done by co-operation. Two or three private individuals having abundant leisure, as I thought, have hung back when I proposed the work to them. Let us hope, however, for the best. In some of the quiet country libraries, the solitary librarian who sees about one reader a day, may jump at the chance of employing his time intelligently and usefully. I trust it may prove so.

Very faithfully yours,

ROBERT HARRISON.

Dr. Coxé, without fully understanding the American plan of co-operation work in library administration, has struck a note entirely in harmony with it. He shows that co-operation, instead of being "gratuitous work," as Mr. Harrison suggests, is a great saving of labor, and a most economical arrangement. When the English librarians have duly considered the subject, they will be as ready to engage in co-operative enterprises as the American librarians are. The printed list of periodicals to be indexed, though embracing many English serials, was made up with especial reference to the wants of American libraries. The English Committee have been invited to add to the list such other serials as they may judge the wants of the English libraries require, and which the English librarians are willing to index.

W. F. POOLE.

CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE—SEVENTH REPORT.

For full descriptions, illustrations, and prices of library supplies recommended by and manufactured for the American Library Association, see previous reports of this Committee and advertisements of the Supply Department (32 Hawley street, Boston), in the LIBRARY JOURNAL. To members of the Association, an extra discount of 10 per cent is made, when desired.

Printed Numbers.

After protracted experiment with different colors of ink and paper, and different thicknesses and qualities, the Committee have selected black ink on a special fawn colored paper, and all numbers will be supplied in this style, unless specially ordered different. Specimens of sizes, styles, prices, etc., are given in the advertising pages.

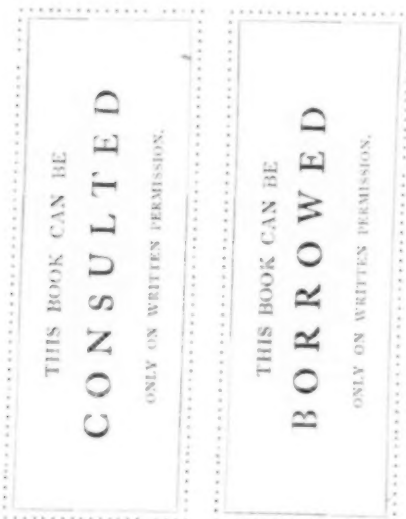
Marking Duplicates.

For this the common label seems undesirable. Small libraries will accomplish the purpose, if the librarian writes above their label "Sold by," and below it his signature. Libraries selling many duplicates might use an embossing

stamp for the words "Sold by — library." A label disfigures the book more than either of these methods, and leaves a gap for fraud, even when officially signed. Labels are sometimes taken out of a cheap duplicate, bought for the purpose, and pasted into a valuable work. The embossing stamp, or librarian's signature, guards against this.

Restriction Labels.

For books restricted from general circulation or consultation, because of cost or character, the following labels are prepared, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ cm., and of different colors, so that the nature of the restriction is recognized by the color, without reading the label.



These cost, in envelopes of 10, 10 c. Large quantities at first cost of paper and printing.

CHARLES A. CUTTER,	} <i>Committee.</i>
FRED. B. PERKINS,	
FREDERICK JACKSON,	

UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION.

SECOND MONTHLY MEETING.

The second monthly meeting was held at 8 P.M. on April 5, at the London Institution. Present—Mr. W. H. Overall, in the chair; Messrs. W. S. W. Vaux, B. R. Wheatley, W. H. Congreve, A. J. Frost, J. W. Knapman, C. Welch, the Rev. J. Clare Hudson, and the Secretaries.

The minutes of the former meeting having

been read and confirmed, and the gentlemen then nominated having been balloted for and elected,

Mr. E. B. Nicholson, on behalf of Mr. H. R. Tedder (who was compelled to leave), moved the appointment of a committee to report on all details relating to the compilation and publication of a general catalogue of English literature. The motion was unanimously carried, and the following were appointed the committee, with power to add to their number: Messrs. G. Bullen, J. Ashton Cross, Rob. Harrison, Overall, Ernest C. Thomas, Vaux, Cornelius Walford, B. R. Wheatley, and H. B. Wheatley, the Secretaries being also members *ex officio*.

Mr. Nicholson then exhibited a specimen of the Bonnange card catalogue, used in the Parliamentary Library at Versailles, and in some other French libraries. M. Bonnange's system is described on p. 558-9 of the American Library Report, but a few further particulars may be added. The apparatus is a wooden tray, apparently intended to lie flat on a counter. It measures about 2 ft. 4 in. long by 1 ft. 4 in. wide, with an outside depth of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. and an inside depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., and is divided into three compartments, the partitions and the sides of the tray being $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. Down each compartment runs a screw, which works a movable block from and towards a fixed block at the end of the compartment; a keyhole outside admits a key which turns the screw, closing up the blocks by turning to the right, and separating them by turning to the left. The cards are placed between the two blocks, and each compartment will hold about 1000; the part of the card visible (the lower part being jammed between the vertical bases of the blocks) measures about 4 in. by 3 in. The lower part of each card has projecting shoulders fitting into grooves in the sides of the compartments; but these shoulders make it very difficult for the librarian to put a card in or take it out without bending, and on cutting them off, the card will be found just as firm in its place when screwed up. The blocks rise about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. higher than the tray itself, but of course the sides might be made as high as the block, and with handles in front the tray would then become a drawer. The specimen tray, which was imported by Trübner & Co., is priced at 90s.; the cards, which are of linen faced with paper, with linen joint, cost 7s. 6d. per 100.

The first report was then brought up of the Committee appointed by the late Conference to

co-operate with America in the production of a new edition of Poole's Index. The Committee confined themselves at present to suggesting that a circular should be sent to the libraries of the United Kingdom inviting assistance in indexing. No member of the Committee being present, the meeting postponed the consideration of the report till it should be ascertained what portions of the work had already been undertaken in America.

Mr. C. Welch then asked for a definition of the difference between a "broadside" and a "single sheet." The opinion of the meeting was that no difference existed.

The meeting then adjourned to May 3d.

THE INDEX SOCIETY.

At the March meeting of the committee of the Index Society, a letter was read from Mr. Dewey, stating the endeavors of the American Association to provide a uniform code for making entries, and suggesting that an agreement with the Index Society should be brought about. It was announced that an Amalgamated Index to the series of Household Books and Accounts of Privy Purse Expenses had been put in hand—a great boon to historical students. It was determined to postpone the publication of the index to any special collection of ballads, as there is good prospect of obtaining a general index of all the best known collections.

The Society has in hand a students' guide to the literature of political economy, and a similar list for students of botany. Indexes of the topographical literature of Great Britain and of books relating to various games of cards are being proceeded with. An index of portraits in Great Britain is also being prepared, as well as an index of British existing, dormant, and extinct titles of honor. Kemble's work on the Saxons in England will be provided with an index, which the Society will publish in the course of the year.

The Committee have had several specimens of extensive ms. indexes brought under their notice, of which it is proposed to give some account in the appendix to the annual reports. One member has compiled an Alphabetical Index of the names of about 90,000 persons who have married members of families described in Dictionaries of the Peerage, Baronetage, and Landed Gentry; giving the dates of the marriages, the name of the person married, and other details.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS' UNIVERSAL CATALOGUE.

THE Council of the Society of Arts, on reference of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, President of the Society, has taken into consideration the cost of producing a catalogue of all books printed in the United Kingdom up to 1600, and the plan of a universal catalogue of which that might be a part. The idea was brought before the Society as early as December, 1852, and two years ago, just before the departure of the Prince for India, a printed specimen was submitted to him. We give from the *Journal* of the Society the circular of queries and an account of the plan.

QUESTIONS.

The Council of the Society, being desirous of collecting information to enable them to report to their President, will feel greatly obliged if librarians, publishers, and printers will kindly give replies to the following questions, and return them, answered, to the Secretary.

1. As it is proposed to issue the catalogue in sections, do you approve of dividing the catalogue into periods, say, of fifty years? If not, please say what other periods you recommend.
2. Do you approve of the size of the proposed page and type? * If not, what do you suggest?
3. Would you be willing to attend a meeting of the Council, and give explanations of your views generally on the subject?

EXPLANATION OF THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

1. Since the year 1851, when the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations took place in London, the idea, first promulgated in the *Athenaeum* of 11th May, 1850,† p. 501, that a universal catalogue of the titles of all books which have been printed since the invention of printing would be of great value to literature and to all public libraries, has been discussed.

2. To some this idea has seemed to involve a large and difficult work to carry out, and the proposal has lain dormant for more than a quarter of a century. It appears that the work can be done, and that it is only necessary that

* A specimen of the proposed catalogue may be seen at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, between the hours of 10 and 4, or a copy will be sent for inspection, to be returned.

† The article on this subject was written, it is believed, by Mr. Dilke, the grandfather of the present Baronet.

the public libraries of countries which have a printed literature should enter into a convention to do the work, and do it by degrees, extending to books printed before the year say A.D. 1800, or even a little later.

3. That this conclusion may not be called a vague one, a specimen has been prepared to show practically how the work might be carried out, and what it would produce when carried out. There has been correspondence with eminent men, possessing fine libraries, or learned in literature and bibliography. Amongst these, the names of the Duc d'Aumale, Lord Acton, Sir James Lacaita, Sir John Lefevre, and Mr. Winter Jones, the principal librarian of the British Museum, may be cited as having thought sufficiently well of the project to encourage proceeding.

4. It is proposed that the titles of books, to form the basis, shall be arranged chronologically—at the beginning of printing into long periods, and afterwards into decades, or even years, as found convenient. As a beginning, it is proposed that the first division of the catalogue shall be produced as far as the year A.D. 1550.*

5. It is proposed that all the titles up to A.D. 1550 shall be arranged alphabetically, according to the names of the authors, or, in the absence of these, according to the subjects.

6. Division A† of this specimen takes a few titles in several languages, and shows how it is proposed that the basis of the catalogue shall be formed and set up by each country. Other divisions show how Division A may be cut up, and the titles of the books interwoven, the cata-

logues of all countries being thus arranged together alphabetically, chronologically, according to subject-matter, or in such other ways as the exigencies of any particular library may require.

7. It is proposed that each nation shall compile and publish the titles of all the printed books which have been produced in it, according to Division A (adopting details to be agreed upon). Whatever may be the language of the books, the titles would be given as printed. Each country would publish a given quantity of the titles at fixed periods, which should be printed in the same style, measure, and sized page as the specimen, and, like it, on one side of the leaf only. It might be convenient if each country used a different colored paper, thus: United Kingdom, red; France, green; Italy, brown; Germany, blue; Spain, orange; Flanders, neutral tint, etc.; or printed in a special colored ink.

8. Every library might thus obtain a printed catalogue, reasonably complete for given periods, made once and for all, till the end of the world. Such a catalogue might also show what books the library possessed, and what books were wanting. Such a work has never been prepared as now suggested, and the want of it renders the compilation of perfect catalogues of books impossible. Such a collection of titles once made, would serve as the basis of every kind of classed catalogues.

9. A convention between the Princes of Europe* was formed by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, at the Paris Exhibition of 1867, with the view of all countries assisting one another in obtaining reproductions of works of art. This convention would be most useful now. The Secretary of State might be asked to send these specimens, through the Foreign Office, to every country which has a literature printed before A.D. 1550, with an invitation to the Government of each to co-operate in the proposed work, to make arrangements for printing, as suggested, titles of the books which belong to it, and nominate an authority to correspond upon the subject.

* Two works have partially carried out, in different ways, a catalogue of books printed before 1500:—Panzer, G. W.,—*Annales Typographic ab artis inventæ origine ad annum MD. post Maittari, Denislii aliorumque doctissimorum virorum curas in ordinem redacti, emendati, et auct.* Opera G. W. P.; 11 vols. 4to.; Norimbergæ; 1793-1803. Hain, L.,—*Repertorium Bibliographicum, in quo libri omnes ab arte typographica inventa usque ad annum MD.; 4 vols. 8vo.; Stuttgart; 1827-38.* These works, as well as others printed in England, will materially assist to carry out the idea in the form suggested.

† It has been suggested by Sir James Lacaita that all notes of the cataloguist shall be given in Latin. He also proposes that the title shall state the size, the number of leaves which the book contains, also the number of blank leaves, any wood-cuts, and if the book has an introduction and an index. Before finally settling these details, it may be desirable to have a conference—perhaps an international one—to discuss them. Sir James's views are illustrated by the page of "Italia." In the English division his views, in some respects, have also been carried out. The other divisions merely give titles for the present.

* This convention was signed by Albert Edward, Prince of Wales; Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh; Frederick William, Crown Prince of Prussia; Louis, Prince of Hesse; Albert, Prince Royal of Saxony; Prince Napoleon (Jerome); Philippe, Comte de Flandre; Alexandre Césarevitch de Russie, Nicolas Duc de Leuchtenberg; Oscar, Prince of Sweden and Norway; Humbert, Prince Royal of Italy; Amedee di Savoie, Carl Ludwig, Archduke of Austria; Frederick, Crown Prince of Denmark.

SPECIMENS OF THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

DIVISION A.

The Alphabetical arrangement of the Titles up to A.D. 1550, to be furnished by each Country.

[United Kingdom.]

HERACLIVS. 1481. FICTION:—[fol. 10.] Here begynneth the boke entituled Eracles, and also of Godefroy of Boloyn. *End.* Which booke [sic] I began in marche the VII. daye and fynysshed the VII. day of Juyn, the yere of our lorde M.CCCC.LXXXI, and the XXI. yere of the regne of our sayde Sauverayn lord kyng Edward the fourth. And in this maner sette in forme and enprynted the XX. day of novembre the yere aforesayd, in thab- bay of Westmester by the sayd Wylliam Cax- ton.

Brit. Mus.

[United Kingdom.]

CHRISTYNE (of Pyse). 1475. PROVERBS.—The Morale Prouerbes of Christyne (of Pyse) Enprynted by Caxton. In feuerer the colde season. Folio. (A.D. 1475.)

Bib. Miller, Britwell.

[United Kingdom.]

CAXTON, WILLIAM. 1450. POETRY.—Ouyde his booke of Metamorphose Translated and fynysshed by me William Caxton at West- mestre the XXII. day of Apryl, the yere of our Lord M III[C.III]XX. And the XX. yere of the Regne of kyng Edward the fourth.

[A manuscript copy of the latter part of the above is in the library of Magdalen College, Cambridge; a perfect copy is unknown, nor is it known whether or not it was printed.]

[The portion below was prepared by Sir J. Lacaita.]

[Italia.]

ALIGHIERI, DANTE. 1481. POETICA.—Comento di Christophoro Landino Fiorentino sopra la Comedia di Danthe Alighieri poeta Fiorentino. (In calce.) Fine del Comento di Christophoro Landino Fiorentino sopra la Comedia di Danthe poeta excellentissimo et impresso in Firenze per Nicholo di Lorenzo della Magna a di XXX. Dagosto, M.CCCC.LXXXI.

In fol. magno, char romanis, cum 2 fig. (Baldini et Baticelli ?). *Proemio, Vita di Dante et alia*, 12 ff. Text 372 ff. *Editio Princeps*, commentar-Landini.

Bibl. Chetworth.

[Italia.]

AUGUSTINUS, SANCTUS, AURELIUS. 1477. THEOLOGIA.—De Civitate Dei. (In fine.) Au-

reli Augustini de Civitate Dei liber XXII. et ultimus explicit. *Impressumque est opus hoc Neapoli a diligenti magistro Mathia Monro. Anno Christi M.CCCC.LXXXVII.*

In 4to, char. goth. Capit. Rubricae 15 ff. Text 251 ff. *Bibl. Lacaita.*

We may add that on the 14th of March, the Council of the Society of Arts examined Mr. Robert Bell, the publisher, Mr. Cornelius Wal- ford, Mr. Edward Arber, Mr. George Bullen, and Mr. E. B. Nicholson, on the proposed English section of their Universal Catalogue. The scheme was somewhat severely criticised, and the position was taken by one or two that such a catalogue should be divided by subjects, with either chronological sub-arrangement and author-and-title index, or with author-and-title sub-arrangement and chronological index. Several other experts will be examined, and the evidence will be printed.

Meanwhile the Trustees of the British Mu- seum have under consideration a proposal to print a catalogue of the English books in the Museum down to 1640.

MR. CROOKES'S CATALOGUE CARD.

WE give a reduced fac-simile of the cata- loguing card exhibited at the March meeting of the U. K. Association by Mr. Crookes. The original is 10 cm. long by 7.5 cm. high. Mr. Crookes uses different colors of cards for different departments.

POSITION	<i>Faraday, M.</i>	CLASS	
086			
<i>Experimental Researches in Chemis- try and Physics.</i>			
<i>London Taylor & Francis</i>			
Date.	Edition.	Volumes.	Pages.
1859	1st	1	496

The position is stamped on, the entry (in script) written, and at the lower part of the card, center, is the usual punched hole for the rod to hold the card in the drawer.

GAS-LIGHT AND BINDINGS.

The following is from the *Chemical News*, v. 36, for 1877. Professor A. H. Church says (p. 179):

"The injurious influence of the products of combustion of coal-gas upon the leather binding of books is only too well known. Vellum seems unaffected; morocco suffers least; calf is much injured, and Russia still more so. The disintegration is most rapid with books on the upper shelves of a library, whither the heated products of combustion ascend, and where they are absorbed and condensed. By comparing specimens of old leather with specimens of new, it is quite clear that the destructive influence of gas is due mainly to its sulphur. True there are traces of sulphates in the dye and size of new leather bindings, but the quantity is insignificant, and there is practically no free sulphuric acid. That leather may be destroyed by the oil of vitriol produced by the burning of gas in a library is proved by the following observations and analyses:

"The librarian of one of our public libraries forwarded to me the backs of several volumes which had been 'shed' by the books on the upper shelves, in an apartment lighted by gas. The leather of one of these backs . . . was carefully scraped off so as to avoid removing any paper or size from beneath. This task of scraping was easy enough, for the leather was reduced to the consistency of Scotch snuff. On analysis of the watery extract of this leather the following figures were obtained:

Free sulphuric acid in decayed leather	...6.21 per cent.
Combined " " " " " "	...2.21 " "
Total	...8.42 per cent."

At page 227 of the same volume is a short paper by Mr. G. E. Davis on the same subject, of which the following abstract is given by the *London Academy* (Feb. 9, 1878):

"He [Mr. Davis] examined the leather of some books which had been in daily use in a leading office in Manchester, from 1855 to 1858; after that time till August, 1877, they remained uncovered on a shelf near the ceiling of the same room. The books were bound in rough calf, and had red basil lettering-pieces. When the books were roughly handled at the time the author saw them, the leather of the backs came off as a mixture of dust and small pieces, which were very acid to test-paper. The leather of the back contained 2.847 per cent com-

bined sulphuric acid, and 1.920 per cent of free sulphuric acid. The red basil lettering-piece contained 0.99 per cent combined, and 0.87 per cent free acid; and the piece of leather covered by the lettering-piece contained 0.39 per cent combined, and 0.76 per cent free sulphuric acid. The leather of another book was found to contain still larger quantities of acid, that in combination amounting to 3.46 per cent, the free acid being 2.13 per cent. The lettering-piece in this instance contained 0.87 per cent combined acid, 1.04 per cent free acid, and 1.28 per cent of ammonia. A piece of leather from the side of this second book gave the following numbers: Ammonia, 0.46 per cent; sulphuric acid, in form of sulphate, 1.85 per cent; and uncombined sulphuric acid, 0.64 per cent."

On these two documents I remark:

To Prof. Church's list of different kinds of leather may be added sheep, which is affected by coal gas at least as much as either calf or Russia. The condition of many volumes, which have been exposed to the influence of coal gas in the Bates Hall of the Boston Public Library for a considerable number of years, is such as apparently to corroborate these statements. I say apparently, because no chemical analysis has been made here. But many sheep, calf, and Russia bindings in this library are in the pulverizable condition mentioned by Professor Church, and this spoiled leather is filled with some very strong acid, harsh to the teeth, and altogether different in quantity and quality from the faint traces of acid sometimes remaining from the processes used in dressing the leather. It is obvious that, when the unavoidable future transfer of the Boston Public Library to a new and scientifically-planned library building shall take place, the total exclusion of coal gas from the building will be indispensable. The saving which such exclusion would already have made, by preventing deterioration in bindings during the twenty-five years' existence of this library, amounts, by two independent estimates, to not less than \$5000, and probably to \$10,000. There are harmless kinds of gas, which can easily be used instead of coal gas.

F. B. PERKINS.

[Mr. Cutter suggests that perhaps the electric light, which the French are rapidly perfecting, could be used in libraries. A Brooklyn inventor claims that he has nearly perfected a system of electric lighting suitable even for private houses.—ED.]

THE USE OF COLORS IN LIBRARIES.

THE British Museum indicates to a certain extent the subject of a book by the color of its dress. Botany would appear in green, history in red (because so bloody?) etc. Whether the advantages often growing out of this plan compensate for the loss of variety on the shelves, by which given books are found something more readily, is an open question. It certainly must be of great assistance in assorting the books for return to the shelves, etc. When the books are covered in paper, a similar advantage could easily be secured by using different shades for different subjects or sections of the building, or, perhaps better still, by certain very prominent conventional marks. All scientific works might have a heavy black line drawn across the centre of the back; history a similar line at the top or bottom, or a double line in some place, etc., or a colored wafer ready gummed could be attached at a very slight cost, and would serve the purposes of the Museum colors, while it entirely obviated the objection of sameness on the shelves.

The chief advantage of such a distinction is perhaps the ease with which a misplaced book is discovered. If by colors, a red book in the midst of the green would be so very prominent that it would be instantly noted, if it were not impossible to so misplace it. In the same way, a colored wafer or very prominent mark would be noted much more quickly than the difference in the number or the title of the book, things that only chance or special examination would be apt to reveal. The most casual glance at the shelves would serve to detect misplaced books marked by distinctive colors.

In the same manner, colors can be made to assist in easy reference by using them according to a regular system in the various blanks. It sometimes happens that there are five different kinds of blanks printed perhaps on the same size paper, and in each kind five different colors. If instead each blank had its own color, it is evident that it would be a great convenience in the many details where these slips must be arranged and classified.

This makes a more convenient distinction than to vary the sizes, and also allows of handling in the same drawers, check boxes, etc., or, as is sometimes desirable, the mingling of two series in a single alphabet.

To a certain extent, this principle of distinctive colors could be utilized in the ink and pencil work of the library, as now many libra-

ries stamp the date of issue in red and that of return in blue. There would be no objection and many minor advantages if library custom were more regular in this; the Co-operation Committee might usefully plan out as far as practicable the desirable distinctions by colors, so that libraries taking up the idea may do it with uniformity. If one town marks issue in red and return in blue, and another just the reverse, it might bother readers in changing residences, or lead to little confusions that can as well be obviated.

MELVIL DEWEY.

A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

IN 1809 the Bodleian Library purchased of Dr. Edward Clarke certain mss. collected by him in his "travels in various countries in Europe and Asia." Among them, and indeed the gem of the collection, was a volume—thick 4to—containing the greater number (twenty-four) of the dialogues of Plato, illustrated by marginal scholia. An account of the manner of his obtaining it from the monks of Patras is given by Dr. Clarke in his *Travels*, 1814, pt. II., sec. II., p. 369. It is a remarkable volume, remarkable for its calligraphy, the letters being almost if not quite equal in form to those figured in the first Florence Homer of 1488—remarkable also, for a book of that age, that it has annexed not only the date, the writer, and place, but also its first possessor and the price he paid for it. Here is this interesting "colophon," *Ἐγρήθη χειρὶ Ἰωάννου καλλιγράφου ἐν τῇ πόλει Ἀρεθῆαι διακόνου πατρὸς νομισματῶν θεζαντίων δεκά καὶ τριῶν μηνὶ νοεμβρίῳ ἰνδικτιῶνος ιδ' ἔτει κόσμου 704 [6404], βασιλεὺς Λεόντις τοῦ φιλοχρηστοῦ υἱοῦ Βασίλειου τοῦ ἀειμνήστου.* Who was Arethas the deacon of Patras? Who, John the Calligraph? With Arethas, however, who, whatever else he was, was evidently a reading man and a scholar, we have more to do; for a few years after the above acquisition the library purchased some Greek mss., formerly in the collection of Ph. James D'Orville, a celebrated scholar, amongst which was found a ms. of Euclid, also with date and name of scribe, which seems to have been written for, or immediately on its completion bought by, the above-named deacon of Patras. Thus we read the record *Ἐγρήθη χειρὶ στεφάνου ἀθηναίου μηνὶ σεπτεμβρίῳ ἰνδ. ζ' ἔτει κόσμου 705 [6397]*, and then a little lower, and, which mark especially, by the same hand, *Ἐκτετάθη ἀρεθῆαι πατρὸς τῶν παρούσων βιβλῶν νομισματῶν [4]Δ.* Whence D'Orville obtained this ms. we have

no record, nor can we conjecture when the deacon's library was dispersed, nor consequently how long our Plato and Euclid, who commenced life together, now nearly a thousand years ago, had been separated. What we *do* know is, that at length they have found a resting-place side by side, in excellent company too, though not of like experience with themselves, where we hope and trust they will never be disturbed.

H. O. COXE.

SPARKS IN THE GLOOM:

A few library amenities from the experience of a large public library.

NOTE in a copy of Whately's "Historic Doubts:"

"Napoleon the great was no myth; he has never been equalled; he did more for France in his short reign than all the monarchs of Europe for the last three centuries."

—A grave and forcible reproof of the archiepiscopal joker.

YOUTHFUL persons sometimes put in shelf-numbers at "dead random," without knowing what book is to come out, as if for the excitement of a sort of literary lottery. Thus, a small boy, in November, 1875, sent in four slips, which produced him the following unboyish selection:

Leibnitz, Physical and Mathematical Correspondence with Bernouilli (in Latin).

De Wette, Heiligen Schriften (a German version of the Bible).

De Poincy, History of the Antilles (in French).

Maury on the River Amazon.

A POET, in the same month, filled out an application for a "one-star" volume of Pope's works in the following tuneful manner:

"You ask me, dear sir, to a reason define
Why you should for a fortnight this volume resign
To my care. *I am also a son of the nine.*"

In February, 1875, an ardent friend of good literature thus filled out a similar slip for a Shakspere:

"The reasons why I wish to read this work are, that I have a great desire to read Shakespeare's complete works, and have heard this spoken of as very fine poetry."

—We also have heard the person in question mentioned with approval.

A WORTHY Deutscher, confident in his mastery of the English tongue, sent the following quaint document across the sea:

"I send to you with the Post six numbers, of our Allgemeine Militär Zeitung, which is published in the next year to the fifty times. Excuses my bath english I learned in the school and I forgot so much. If you have interest to german Antiquariatskataloge I will sent to you some. I remain however yours truly servant."

This was addressed to the "Praesident of the Boston Public Library, Mr. Justinus Winsor," who was further gratified by the appended title of "Church-Superintendent"—a post which, however capable, the eminent ex-superintendent was not, in fact, filling at the time.

A CIVIL engineer, applying for Mitchell's "Underground Railroads," noted that he desired it "for engineering purposes." The reply gave him the rest of the title—"from Slavery to Freedom"—and that civil engineer was not further heard from.

A GENTLEMANLY stranger once asked the Bates Hall delivery clerk for "a genealogy." "What one?" she asked. "Oh! any," he said. "Well—Savage's?" "No; white men."

By pure chance there were gathered at the registration desk, May 11th, 1877, at the same time, to have errors corrected about cards, four men, named respectively Biggs, Briggs, Griggs, and Triggs.

DECEMBER 6, 1875, a princely stranger applied for a copy of the "card catalogue" for two cents. Twenty thousand dollars would not begin to replace the only copy we have if we had furnished it; and all that the library jocularist said about it was that it was a Toussaint Overture.

IN applying for an anatomical work, the borrower thus specified: "I want to find about the eye, I am going to learn optition."

THERE is an oldish story about a girl who experienced religion, and being asked what she had done with her ear-rings, said: "I found they were dragging me down to hell, so I took them off and gave them to my sister." Similar was the morality of a youth who presented to this library a set of "The Boys of England"

(an awful raw head-and-bloody-bones periodical of crime and adventure), and in a note to the superintendent explained thus: "I always thought [*sic*] it wrong to have those books, so that I resolved to give them to the library, it being against the rules of the church." And, after some further remarks, our fervent young missionary, who inclosed two little tracts, ended by saying, "I send herewith a little book which I hope you will read; but if you are saved already give it to some one else." Doubtless it might be presumed that Mr. Winsor, being a "church superintendent," was officially "saved;" but his youthful benefactor did not know of that appointment, and the tracts have not yet fulfilled their lofty office.

F. B. PERKINS.

AN ENTERPRISING VILLAGE LIBRARY.

THE CORNWALL (N. Y.) CIRCULATING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, of which Rev. Lyman Abbott and Rev. E. P. Roe, both well-known writers, are President and Vice-President, and Mr. S. B. Caldwell the energetic Secretary, has a well lighted book and reading room, 60 by 20 feet, containing nearly 3000 volumes and a considerable supply of periodicals. Thanks to the taste and care of Miss Mary C. Clark, the librarian, window gardens and plant-stands make the place additionally attractive. The room contains a less artistic but more remunerative novelty in the advertising bulletins introduced by Mr. Caldwell. Light and neatly-made frames, 8 feet high by 2 feet 8 inches wide, occupy various places, each divided into 20 spaces, 8 by 15 inches, containing tasteful advertising placards. These spaces are let, April to April, at \$10 the year, including the cost of lettering, for unobjectionable advertisements; separate advertising frames are also received at a rental of from \$10 to \$30 the year. Cornwall is a leading summer resort, and the library receives ten to twelve thousand calls a year, of people from all parts. It is thus able to secure advertising from Cornwall and neighboring cities like Newburgh, from New York, and from as far off as London and Savannah. These panels returned last year \$262 in cash, and \$252 in books and other supplies—a hint for other libraries. The library, taking the suggestion from the JOURNAL, has printed 1000 copies of a handy classed catalogue (sadly incorrect, how-

ever, in record of titles), the advertising in which paid cost and \$140 surplus in cash and supplies. The catalogue is classed, and at the end of each department are several blank leaves for additions. This was sent gratuitously to nearly every family in the township and neighboring villages, and has largely increased the membership, which, with the further stimulus of liberal purchases of new books, especially juveniles, and frequent articles on them in local papers, has nearly doubled between October and February. In sending this catalogue to neighboring villages, the Association sends also a circular suggesting that "those families and persons residing in your village who may desire to avail themselves of the use of books of this library can form a club of say twenty or thirty persons for three months—tickets seventy-five cents each—as an experiment, to whom would be allowed thirty books to twenty, or forty-five to thirty members, of their own selection, to be retained a month, then returned to the Cornwall Library and a new set obtained, and the same process repeated for each succeeding month. There would always be a surplus in the depository in your village to draw from. The Library Association would deliver and receive the books from the United States Express, Cornwall Station, from thence the express charges to and from your place would be defrayed by the club." This idea, devised by the founder of the library, the late W. P. Coolidge, of New York, has resulted already in three village clubs, distant two, three, and four miles from the library, and two other villages, six and twelve miles off, are proposing others. One club was the result of a temperance movement, which the library has thus assisted to make permanent. The lady members of the library have hit upon another valuable idea: they have formed a lyceum, which gives social and literary entertainments (mostly at private houses), charging ladies 25 and gentlemen 50 cents each, the proceeds of which have been devoted to sending tickets of membership in the library to families otherwise unable to secure them. This has been delicately done, and with gratifying results. The property of the Association is held by the owners of transferable shares: one share is sold at \$5, subject to annual payment of \$2; five shares at \$25, with the annual dues commuted; annual membership is \$2, and others may use the reading room at 10 cents a day, 30 cents a week.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THOUGHTS ON THE LONDON CONFERENCE.

LIVERPOOL FREE LIBRARY, }
 March 29, 1878. }

To the Editor of the *Library Journal* :

When the Conference of Librarians, which met in London last autumn, was first proposed, there were many in England who were not over enthusiastic or sanguine as to its advantages or beneficial results. What have librarians got to confer about? said a number of outsiders, and the same was repeated also by a number of insiders; so, when the meeting did take place, there were many of the craft absent who would by no means have been losers had they been present. But if it were, as we have reason to believe it in some cases to have been, that boards or committees of management objected to pay the necessary expenses of their librarians or managing officers, we can only regret this extremely short-sighted policy on their part, so detrimental to the efficiency and success of the institutions over which they preside, and hope that, when the conference meets this year, the largely increased number of those attending it will show that this no longer exists.

If there is one section of librarians more than another who looked forward to the meeting with interest, and expected profit, it was undoubtedly the public librarians of England. Called upon to do so much work with so little assistance, it was with them a constant source of anxiety how to perform, in the best and most satisfactory manner, the duties which pressed so heavily upon them.

You have but to visit these provincial libraries to see at once that there is no exaggeration in this statement, and to become impressed with the amount of work performed compared with the means to accomplish it. The consequence of this has been the devising and introduction of some ingenious contrivances to lighten and save both time and labor, and also the bringing into existence, to some extent, of a class of librarians somewhat more remarkable for mechanical ingenuity than literary ability, and who are thoroughly practical men of business rather than bibliographers and book-worms. No doubt much of this is due to the heavy multifarious duties which fall upon them, and which so sadly interfere with the gratification and development of literary taste and ability, leaving little or no time for exploring out-of-the-way corners of the library shelves,

or for digging up buried facts and information to be transformed into some magazine article or society's paper. Besides the causes already adduced for looking forward with agreeable anticipation to the conference, it is but right and our duty to acknowledge the new life which our American friends infused into many of us, in connection with library management, and the higher views they took, and endeavored to inculcate, in regard to the true nature of a librarian's duties and position, by means of that highly valuable and instructive government report on American libraries, the joint work of their hands, the proceedings of their first conference, and the no less valuable *LIBRARY JOURNAL* established in their midst. It is but justice to tell them how much we are indebted to them for the profit and assistance we have derived from these publications, and the attention which they have been so greatly instrumental in drawing towards library economy and working generally.

One of the pleasantest features of the late conference in London, and which most, if not all, present thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed, was the opportunity it afforded of meeting and conversing with those whom we had previously known more or less only from correspondence or hearsay, and for the quiet, friendly exchange of opinions and ideas upon various points of management and discipline, which gave confidence and decision in cases previously marked by hesitancy and doubt. Among other pleasant remembrances connected with the London Conference was the one which gave me, and also a few other librarians, the opportunity, previous to its sitting, of making the acquaintance of those gentlemen who came as a deputation to it from the American Library Association. I was interviewed by them, I might say, and for the first time made practically acquainted with the real nature and character of interviewing as understood by our smart, clear-headed, and eminently practical cousins. In my case, I had a party to reply to and contend with; what one failed to question me in, another did, and another supplemented his interrogatories. All things come to an end in time, and so did that remarkable cross-examination. I hope they derived as much pleasure and profit from it as I was gratified and instructed by many of their remarks, and nothing would please me more than to see the same faces and go through the same ordeal again.

P. COWELL.

CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENTS.

NEW YORK, August 24, 1877.

To the Editor of the Library Journal:

The scope and usefulness of our large libraries could be greatly increased by the establishment of correspondence departments, through which business men and non-residents might avail themselves of much information otherwise inaccessible. Even with free libraries, the hours of access agree so nearly with business hours that many who would otherwise pass a portion of their time in such places are unable to do so; while people residing out of town are obliged to use the railroads to secure any such information. But if it were understood by the general public that letters and postal-cards mailed to libraries would receive prompt and cheerful attention at the hands of those competent to answer queries, it would be found that people would largely avail themselves of such a convenience, and would readily inclose the return postage, especially if such a request were printed on the letter-head of the department. If the press, with all its rush of necessary detail, can afford to publish questions and answers of such a character, it can be presumed that librarians can bestow a moderate amount of attention to the answering of reasonable questions.

Where copying should be requested, a rate could be charged amply compensating for the labor, if not entirely defraying the current expenses of that branch of the work.

The benefits of such a system are twofold, as many who would otherwise take up the time of the subordinates with unnecessary talking and searching would be led to reduce their queries to writing.

It would also be found that an alphabetically-arranged register of correspondents and their addresses would prove a convenience in sending out circulars, giving vacancies in sets of periodicals, as well as for issuing occasional accession-lists, on thin paper, in the way of enclosures.

The experiment of correspondence departments seems well worth trying, and would involve no capital if they proved a failure.

CHARLES A. DUFFEE.

A COMBINATION CATALOGUE.

NEW YORK, March, 1878.

To the Editor of the Library Journal:

Might not something be done toward solving the catalogue question, if several great libraries should unite in producing a combina-

tion catalogue which would represent them all? It would only differ from an ordinary catalogue in that each entry would be followed by letters designating which of the libraries contain the book specified. For instance, suppose five libraries unite in a catalogue, their initials being the first five letters of the alphabet, the entries would look somewhat like this:

Brown, Philosophy of Human Mind. A CDE
Clark, Mind in Nature. AB E
Combe, Moral Philosophy. ABCDE
Comte, General View of Positivism. BCDE

This would signify that the first book mentioned was in all the libraries, except that designated by B; the next in those designated by A, B, and E; and so on.

Of course the preparation of the copy would involve a collation of the five catalogues in manuscript; but this could be done with very cheap clerical labor, and then all five libraries could be supplied with full printed catalogues from one type-setting. And, in fact, such a catalogue would be more valuable to almost everybody who had occasion to use it than a simple catalogue of any one of the five. It would not be at all necessary that the libraries so combining should be situated in the same city.

The advantages of a cheap printed catalogue, which the patrons of a public library could own and keep at their homes, are evident on a moment's reflection.

ROSSITER JOHNSON.

[The same proposition, including the use of initials, is made by Mr. Cutter in the "Special report," p. 551, *note*. In fact this is an extension of what is done so successfully in the *Bulletins of the Boston Public Library*—ED.]

EXCERPTS.

I THINK an article on the Boston Public Library system of charging loans *in particular*, and on systems of charging loans *in general*, would be very acceptable to many of your readers, myself especially included. Had I known earlier of the details of the splendid system of the Boston Public Library, it would have saved me much thought and labor.

J. SCHWARTZ.

THERE is a vast difference between the Boston Public Library and ———. I mean in the way they treat a stranger. My experience in Boston was that they were glad to help a person find what he wanted. In ——— it is the dog in the manger. . . . I wish the plan of college professors lecturing on bibliography (suggested at the Philadelphia Conference) could be carried out in our own college. C. B. R.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

I. NOTICES.

FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY OF BURLINGTON, (Vt.) Catalogue. [Compiled by Harriet H. Ames.] Burlington, [Lawrence,] 1877. p. 6 + 661. O.

This volume, admirable in the beauty of its typography, furnishes new evidence of the growing demand for, and rapid growth of, public libraries in this country. Here we have a volume larger—shall we say by way of comparison?—than Mr. Poole's Cincinnati catalogue of 1871, to represent the contents of a library which existed only in name four years ago.

By the gift of twenty-four thousand dollars, Mrs. Mary L. Fletcher and Miss Mary M. Fletcher have associated their names with the most enduring monument their city possesses, and the city of Burlington is endowed with a public library for the education of her citizens, which, to judge from the volume before us, will compare favorably with other collections of a similar extent.

The trustees of the fund have shown wisdom in the selection of a compiler for the catalogue, and the painstaking, conscientious manner in which the work has been performed will be known when the reviewer states his inability to find even a typographical error in a somewhat careful examination of the first three hundred pages. It is a marvel of accuracy in proof-reading. And not alone in the revision is the experienced hand shown, but also in the careful indexing of series; in the systematic use of cross-references; and in an intelligent use of notes for readers, without which any catalogue of a public library of the twentieth century will be incomplete.

It is for these reasons that we must confess to a feeling of disappointment in our examination of the volume under notice. When a reviewer can no longer impale errors

"Thick as autumnal leaves, that strew the brooks
In Vallombrosa,"

on the point of his pen; when he can no longer gloat over them as does the miser over his gold, and magnify the smallest into a heinous offence; then, like Othello, he finds his occupation gone, and there is nothing left for him but to give that praise of which generations of his race have kept the essence only, in vials carefully labelled, "Faint praise, to be used only in damning."

In compiling what appears to be a volume entirely free from errors, Miss Ames has established a precedent which, as a reader and user, we welcome as a most pleasing innovation; but, in our capacity of reviewer, we must enter a vigorous protest against making a free press subservient to such a use.* C. EVANS.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY OF BROOKLYN. Class list of English prose fiction, including juveniles and translations. 3d ed. Brooklyn, 1877. p. 459-536 [of general catalogue]. O.

One of the chief practical advantages claimed for Mr. Noyes' alphabetico-classed system of cataloguing is here illustrated in the separate advanced publication of the class FICTION of his general catalogue, to be followed, it is to be hoped, by such others as BIOGRAPHY, BIBLICAL LITERATURE, etc. The present work differs but little from the earlier editions. The chief changes are the introduction of more notes, a minuter specification of contents of series, and a more frequent indication of the sequence of the related works of any one writer. There are excellent prefatory lists of "works upon the bibliography, history, philosophy, and tendency of works of fiction," to which we would respectfully call the attention of the novelophobists. L. E. JONES.

2. RECORD OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

A. Library economy, history, and reports.

ADVIELLE, Vict. Les droits et les devoirs des conservateurs et des administrateurs des bibliothèques communales. Paris, Aubry, 1878. 44 p. 8°. 2 fr.

The author has given "un modèle très-bien fait de règlement pour une bibliothèque publique." See *Bull. du bouquéniste*, no. 481, p. 5-6.

CINCINNATI (O.) PUBLIC LIBRARY. 10th ann. report. (Pages 43-56 of the 48th ann. report of the BOARD OF EDUCATION. Cincin., 1878. O.)

Accessions, 6673 v. and 3164 pam.; total, 91,275 v. and 10,038 pam.; issues, 224,018; books used in the reading-

* In the last annual report of this Library it is stated that "less than a half-dozen novels have been added in the past year, yet not only has the demand for books increased, but the gain has been entirely in the better classes. The cause of this variation is simply that previous to June, 1877, there was nothing to show readers what the library contained except ms. finding lists of fiction, history, and travels. Until that date the proportion of fiction ranged from 100 per cent to 80. In the short space of seven months it has fallen to 71." In these seven months 113 copies of the catalogue have been sold at 25c. "Arrangements may be made so that the book can be paid for in instalments."

room, 117,069; periodicals used, 367,733. The indoor use of the books has much more than doubled in two years.

"Since the last annual report three of the divisions of the general catalogue of the Library have been printed: a catalogue of English Prose Fiction, one of German Prose Fiction, and one of French Prose Fiction. They are uniform as to size, paper, and typography; and the parts which are to follow will correspond; so that the whole catalogue can be conveniently bound in volumes to suit the taste of the purchaser. Thus far 574 of these catalogues have been sold, returning to the Library \$225.75 of their cost. Judging from this experience there seems to be no reasonable doubt that each of the catalogues will pay its own way, so far as the expense of printing is concerned. Thus, as fast as the editions are exhausted, we shall be able to reprint each division entire, with the additions to the Library in that department, down to the date of publication, without further expense in this direction. This is an experiment which, so far as I know, has not been tried by any other Library. With us there is at present every indication of success. The plan places a complete catalogue of each department of the Library within the reach of any one who may be interested in it. Of ten divisions of the catalogue the reader may care for only one. This plan does not compel him to buy the nine he does not want for the sake of the one he does. There can be no doubt that, for a public Library growing at the rate of 8,000 to 10,000 volumes a year, the old plan of a complete printed catalogue in one alphabet is utterly unsuitable. Its cost takes it out of the reach of the great mass of the people; it is too soon out of date, and cannot be renewed without too great outlay; and, if it is supplemented from time to time by volumes containing the latest additions, the expense of acquiring a complete copy increases with the increasing number of alphabets to be consulted, so that sooner or later the thing becomes a nuisance."

GENERAL SOCIETY OF MECHANICS AND TRADESMEN OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK. 92d annual report, Feb. 1, 1878. N. Y., 1878. 48 p. O.

Accessions, 2853 v.; total, 57,758; issues, 172,839, of which 104,805 was prose fiction; greatest circulation in one day, 1254.

LANCASTER (Mass.) LIBRARY. 15th annual report, 1877-8. Clinton, 1878. 35 p. O + 10 p. of advertisements.

Accessions, 867 v. and 308 pm.; total, 10,567 v. and 357 pm.; 33 periods taken; issues, 12,091, of which fiction 63.8 per cent, other literature 14.9, history, etc., 13.6, arts and sciences 7.7. The statistics are presented according to the A.L.A. model. The report contains some remarks on the value of catalogues, and is followed by a list of the books added under authors and subjects. Printed on manila paper. The receipts from the advertisements paid 3/8 of the cost of printing the report.

LIUILLIER, Th. La bibliothèque et les bibliothécaires du château de Fontainebleau au temps passé. Meaux, Le Blondel, 1878. 19 p. 18°.

LIBRARY ASSOC. OF PORTLAND, Oregon. Constitution and by-laws; also, the annual reports for 1872-78. Portl., 1878. 66 p. O.

Perpetual membership, \$200; life membership, \$200; yearly membership, \$25 per annum; quarterly membership,

\$3 per quarter. Issues to a member at once, 1 f° or 4° (for 4 weeks), and 2 8° v. (for 3 weeks), books of less size for 2 weeks; fine for detention of books, 1° to 10 cts., 8° 5 cts. "The Librarian may appoint assistants, who shall be paid by himself."

During 1877, accessions, 531 v.; total, 8774; circulation, 3,605, of which 75 per cent was fiction.

"It is something to boast of that a town like Portland far away on the north-west coast, containing 20,000 inhabitants and unconnected with the interstate railway communication of the country, should have a library of 8774 well-chosen volumes and a careful selection of the periodical literature of Europe and America."

LIVERPOOL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, MUSEUM, AND WALKER ART GALLERY. 25th annual report. Liverpool, 1878. 28 p. O.

Reference library. Accessions, 3391 v.; total, 64,337; issues, including quarterly and monthly magazines, 435,882; of which 170,531 was prose fiction; issues of weekly periodicals, 157,482.

Lending libraries (21). Accessions, 366 v.; total, 42,461; issues, 425,520, of which 317,013 were prose fiction.

LYNN PUBLIC LIBRARY. 15th ann. report for 1877. Lynn, 1878. 20 p. O.

Accessions, 1425 v.; total, 22,708; issues, 102,491. "With in a few years the merely sensational novel has been superseded, in a great degree, by the better kinds of fiction, while many to whom the novel was once a necessity have given their attention to travels, history, and science." The librarian calls for a thorough classification and a full catalogue.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, San Francisco. 25th ann. report, 1877. San Fr., 1878. 48 + [1] p. (incl. 1 view). O.

Accessions, 2184 v., of which romance 136, science 154, travels 131, history 104; total in lib., 45,708; 79 catalogues sold during the year. Of the catalogues of 1874 and 1875 and the class list of fiction 3000 copies were issued and 1400 copies have been sold for \$1,480.25. The plan of excluding readers from the shelves adopted two years ago has prevented many losses; and the members, as they become accustomed to the new arrangement, are beginning to acquiesce in it. Speaking of the percentage of fiction read (71.4 of fiction and 28.6 of religious works), the librarian quotes a lecture of Starr King delivered before the association in 1861. "It is useless to quarrel with a primal passion of our being. . . . The Saxon intellect has hardly shown its richness and soundness more marvelously, during the last sixty years, in the progress of science and the miracles of invention, than through its fertility in noble fictions. Such creativeness has not been known since the age of Shakespeare. And, after biography, no reading can be more profitable, if the superstructure of education has been attended to, than novels. Of course they must be read for something beyond sensations, as products of art and thought. Novels—good ones—have all the range and all the characteristics of the higher classes of paintings—color, tone, grouping, precision of drawing, perspective, and the quality of the lesson or the elevation of spirit that looks out through all. And when read with one eye to the story and the other to the art of the book, the pleasure is intellectually as profitable as it is noble."

MERCANTILE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADEL

PHILA. 55th ann. report, Jan. 1878. Phila., 1878. 24 p. O.

Accessions, 6907 v.; total, 119,825; issues, 184,674. In connection with the repairs necessitated by the fire in Feb., 1877, improvements were made at a cost for both of \$20,000.

MINNESOTA HIST. SOC. Annual report for 1877. Minneapolis, 1878. 24 p. O.

Accessions, 1072 v., 853 pam., etc.; total, bd. v. 7171, unbd. 10,835; or 18,006 titles, 356 maps, etc.

PLYMOUTH (Eng.) FREE LIBRARY AND NEWS-ROOMS. 1st report, 1876-7. Plymouth, 1878. 30 + [1] p. O.

Accessions, 7928 v.; total, 7928; borrowers enrolled, 4500; issues from lending dept., 115,972; issues in ref. dept., 9087; 672 copies of the index catalogue sold in 3 months.

We notice one word misused in a manner which is becoming very common in library reports. "No. of volumes issued of each classification." The writer means "of each class." Classification means the act of classifying or the scheme on which the classes are divided, and was not used, we think, by any good writer to mean the classes themselves till libraries began publishing their statistics. There is not the slightest need of the new word, and it has the disadvantage of being longer and weaker than the proper term.

SAINT LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOC. 32d ann. report. St. Louis, 1878. 24 p. O + 1 p. Q.

The statistics were given in the March JOURNAL. The small proportion of fiction (53.9) is remarkable. "We have found it advisable, in order to supply the demand for periodical literature, to procure a considerable number of the principal magazines, and issue them to members at 5 cts. a week." "To meet the wishes of many who desire to take out several books at a time, the plan has been adopted of issuing extra volumes, charging for them at the rate of 10 cts. per week for each book or set of books, not exceeding three. This has proved a great convenience to readers." "During the year an attempt was made to publish, from time to time, duly classified supplements, containing lists of all books added to the library since the last issue, but their sale was so small as to render it undesirable to continue the experiment; so it was abandoned."

TAUNTON (Mass.) PUBLIC LIBRARY. Catalogue, with a classified index, revised rules, etc. Taunton, 1878. 12 + 238 + [1] p. sm. Q.

Double columns; generally a title-a-liner. Author catal. (p. 1-14 O) and classified index (13 cl., with subdivisions). On manila paper.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE. Library. (*In its* Official gazette, Jan. 15.) 1½ col.

Accessions, 2742 v.; burnt, 51; total (not incl. 1750 v. of dupl. English patents), 24,000; issues, about 20,000; periodicals taken, 253. An author and subject catalogue has been prepared and is nearly printed; it will fill about 600 pages. More room is needed for books, and \$20,000 to buy more books.

UXBRIDGE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY. 3d ann. report. (Pages 15-20 of the Reports of the town officers, Uxbridge, 1878. O.)

Accessions, 640; total, 2054; issues, 5060. The additions came chiefly from a gift of \$500 made by a former townsman.

WATERTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY. 10th annual report. Boston, 1878. 54 p. O.

Accessions, 581; total, 10,795 v., 9947 pam.; issues 32,082.

WORCESTER (Mass.) FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY. 18th ann. report, for the year ending Nov 30, 1877. Worcester, [1878]. 28 + [1] p. O.

Accessions, 2464 v., 900 pam.; total, 43,224 v.; issues, 134,544, a decrease of 2661. "We could have made our circulation this year as large as that of last year, or even larger, had we chosen to add a larger proportion of novels to the library than in former years; but as soon as it became known that our appropriation would be less this year than heretofore, it was determined to treat all borrowers fairly by supplying books for all classes of readers, and to keep up the high standard which we have always maintained in the choice of books." The reading-rooms were used on Sundays by 10,915 persons. They are open from 2 to 9 P.M. There is no shelf-room left, and it is proposed to fit up the French roof as a book-room and to put in an elevator.

Annual meeting of the Portland Institute.—*Portland Advertiser*, Apr. 1.

Accessions, 577 v., 88 pam.; total, 18,902; issues, 43,612 lost and worn-out in 10 years, 900. The librarian, E. A. Noyes, resigns his office, after 10 years' service.

Art. on the Public Library.—*Boston d. Herald*, Feb. 28. ½ col.

A reply to an art. in *Globe*. Calls the rule limiting the time of keeping out books a device to force up the circulation. The *Globe* rejoined March 1.

Les bibliothèques populaires au Chili; [par] G. T.—*Bul. du Soc. Franklin*, Dec. 4 p.

The National Library has 50,000 v., the Library of the Institute 10,000, and there are 16 libraries attached to the high-schools, counting in some cases over 4000 v. apiece. These latter are open to the public at least 2 hours a day.

Bibliothèques des campagnes; [par] le vcte. de Cormenin.—*Bul. de la Soc. Franklin*, Dec. 4½ p.

A dialogue, written in 1846. Advocates village libraries and gives an account of one of 150 v. divided into 6 parts that has been made to circulate through six cantons in 25 many years.

Das Buch als Kunstwerk; von Bruno Bucher.—*Deutsche Rundschau*, March. 15 p.

"Deprecates circulating libraries and urges the formation in every household of a small and carefully selected library of books well printed and well bound."—*Acad.*

Libraries; by Kate Gannett Wells.—*Christian reg.*, Feb. 9. 1 col.

Library economy.—*Boston d. Advertiser*, Jan. 28. ½ col.

A short notice of Seligmann's report to Dr. Falk.

The new congressional library.—Amer. architect,
Mar. 16. 1 col.

"It has been suggested that it may be a building of divided uses; but this would be a serious mistake. However it is done, we trust it will not be in any half-way manner. A library brooks no rival; and a building that is well planned for it cannot be well planned for any thing else."

The private libraries of Philadelphia: Shakespearean library of Horace Howard Furness.—Robinson's epitome of literature, Feb.

Our public library.—Daily Leader, Bloomington, Ill., Mar. 4. 1½ col.

Reports of the B. Library Assoc. Accessions, 140; total, 7260; issues, 23,000; daily attendance in the reading-room seldom less than 100, on Saturdays 300.

In the treasurer's report we find, Receipts, baby show, \$118.04; amount collected by subscription for books, \$115.00.

The plan of "donating" the library to the city does not meet the approval of a majority of the stockholders. "Even if offered, it is very doubtful whether the Common Council would feel inclined to accept it, or if so inclined whether they would have the power to do so."

The Public Library, and its choice of books; [by C. A. C.].—Bost. d. Advertiser, Feb. 12.

"Six months ago the Boston public library was severely censured for buying books that would interest scholars alone, as if scholars were not part of the public which it was bound to serve. Lately an attack came from the opposite quarter." Objection was made in strong terms to the quality of the fiction supplied, and a list of suspicious titles published. C. remarks of some of them that the "first five, however, can hardly have any other demerit than that of inanity, for they are by Mrs. Southworth and Mrs. Stephens. Their titles are evidently their worst part. The two authors named, Alger and Optic, are also rather hardly treated. Alger is commonplace, if you like, and occasionally dull, but not often. And as to 'demoralizing,' there is no fear of that. Alger, so far as we know him, is obtrusively moral,—with a morality of the Benjamin Franklin type. Perhaps that is one secret of his popularity. Douglas Jerrold and Thackeray have noticed how, at the theatre, the moral tags always get the most applause from the gallery; and what is true of plays is true, to a certain extent, of the dime novel. Nor is 'drivel' any more applicable to Oliver Optic. Plenty of disparaging remarks can be made about him, but not that he is a driveller. He is very popular with boys, and American boys will not read drivel. We should not include any of his or of Alger's works in a 'Best reading,' but neither do they belong in an *Index expurgatorius*. The characters are certainly not very good company for well-educated boys and girls; but they are of as good tone as the associates of those who read the books, and as the public library is for all the citizens, and not merely for the well educated, the trustees may properly believe themselves justified in providing a kind of reading which is sought for by a large class; gives them pleasure; does them at least no harm; and, being suited to them, brings them a certain amount of intellectual profit and a kind of moral instruction; and finally, that attracts them to the library, where there is a chance that something better may get hold of them. The trustees of a public library cannot force the public to come to the library; they must attract it, and almost the only way to draw it there is to put into the library books which the public want to read. Now, there is a large portion of

the public who are not in the least interested in quaternions, or the exclusion of incompatibles, or the breaking strain of iron beams, or similar very improving questions. There are even persons from whom the reading of Parkman's 'Pioneers of France' or Motley's 'Dutch Republic' requires an amount of mental strain which is very painful, and cannot be enjoyed without a degree of previous training and certain associations which they have never had an opportunity to acquire. It is all very well to say, These people must be made to prefer good reading; but how is it to be done? What power is to compel them? Certainly nothing can be effected by a policy that will begin by driving them off. The true way is to get them in the habit of frequenting the library, and then to raise by personal influence the character of the reading. Teachers can do much, as Mr. C. F. Adams, jr., pointed out in his address to the Quincy school teachers. In small towns librarians can do much, and we know of some who have been successful in this work.

"But in a city there are great difficulties arising from the large number of persons to be dealt with, and it may be in part from a difference in the character and habits of thought of city boys, which make them less amenable to pastoral influence whether of a religious or literary kind. For this reason, perhaps, and perhaps from the difficulty of getting the fit man to carry out the project, the experiment has never been tried at a large library; but we are sure that a good work could be done in this way by a man of the right sort. He must be one of very wide sympathies; one who could understand what it is that attracts even in such writers as Alger and Optic, and would not disdain to use them as helps; he must be able to address the ignorant without mortifying them, the indolent without discouraging them, and the restive without alarming their pride. He must be of an unbounded hopefulness, but not in the least impatient. He must know something of the books he wishes to drive out, and be thoroughly familiar with the literature which he wishes to put in their place, so that he can know just what to recommend under all the varying circumstances that will come to his knowledge. He must, too, have a quick discernment of character, mental and moral, to know how far he can go and what to say to each of his patients; for he is to be, in a literary way, the city physician, and must be able to administer from the bibliothecal dispensary just that strengthening draught that will suit each case. Such a prodigy will accomplish wonders, and, as such prodigies are rare, we hope the experiment will not have to wait for trial till one is discovered; though, on the other hand, it would be a great misfortune if the work should be discredited in consequence of falling into the hands of an incompetent person."

Questionnaire.—Bul. de la Soc. Franklin, March.
34 p.

The text of a series of 30 questions with blank spaces for answers, addressed by the Society to popular libraries.

Report of trustees of Haverhill Public Library. Report of librarian. Our Public Library; [by] Cecil.—Haverhill bulletin, Feb. 2. 1½ col.

Accessions, 977 v.; total, 25,093; issues, 74,019; total of names registered, 5280; 60 periodicals in the reading-room. Seven hundred p. of the catalogue have been printed.

State or city public library.—Bost. d. Globe, Feb. 4. 1 col.

What our boys are reading; by W. G. Sumner.
—*Scribner's*, March. 3½ p.

An account of the vicious "periodical literature for boys which has been growing up during the last few years, about hunting, Indian warfare, California desperado life, pirates, wild sea adventure, highwaymen, crimes and horrible accidents, horrors (tortures and snake-stories), gamblers, practical jokes, the life of vagabond boys, and the wild behavior of dissipated boys of our large cities. . . . We say nothing of the great harm which is done to boys of from twelve to sixteen years of age by the nervous excitement of reading harrowing and sensational stories; . . . but these papers poison boys' minds with views of life which are so base and false as to destroy all manliness and all chances of true success."

"Prominent citizens of New Haven have been sending a reprint of this article broadcast among editors. No parent can afford to be indifferent to the matter of which it treats."
—*Nation*.

B. *Catalogues of libraries.*

ARAGONA, Bernardo Gaetani. I mss. membranacci della Biblioteca, della SS. Trinità di Cava de' Terreni. (*Appended to v. 1, 2, 4 of MORCALDI M., and others. Codex diplomaticus Cavensis, Mediol.*, 1873-78.)
163 p. and 9 plates of fac-similes.

ATHENÆUM. Additions to the Library, 1877.
[London, 1877.] 2 + 33 p. O.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE. Inventaire alphabétique des livres imprimés sur velin.
Paris, Champion, 187.

There are 2528 v. printed on vellum in the library. This work contains merely the titles, etc., although it contains all the vellum books which have been added since Van Praet (1828). It only fills one volume in place of five.
Noticed in *Polybiblion*, February. 3 p.

GLASGOW READING CLUB. Catalogue of books and periodicals, regulations, index, and select list of pseudonyms [*sic*]. Glasgow, Th. Murray & Son, 1878. 99 + 3 p.
18.3 × 12.3.

Short titles; no imprints; classed with an alph. index.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Library bulletin, no. 7.
[Cambridge], March 1, 1878. p. 97-124. O.

Contains the following new articles, written for the pamphlet by members of the Board of Instruction: 1. Dr. Lodge—Continuation of his history notes. 2. Mr. Winsor (Librarian)—The Literature of the Separatists and Puritans, as founders respectively of Plymouth and Massachusetts. 3. Prof. Dunbar—Literature of gold and silver, apropos of the remonetization of silver. 4. Prof. Abbot—Recent theological books. 5. Dr. Emerton—On the historical sources of the conflict between the Emperor and Pope Gregory. 6. Beginning of a list of the rarities in the Charles Sumner collection. 7. Beginning of a full bibliography of Michael Angelo, with copious notes by Professor Norton. These articles, written with a good deal of care by competent persons, are of value to students in choosing books for reading, and in writing on special topics.

HONORABLE SOCIETY OF GRAY'S INN. Supplement to the catalogue of books, March, 1872-Jan., 1878; with an index of subjects; comp. by W. Douthwaite. London, 1878.
144 p. O.

Handsomely but expensively printed; under "Catalogues of Libraries," for instance, a third of the page is left "fat."

MEERENBERG (PROVINCIAL GENEESKUNDIG GEESTICHT VOOR KRANKZINNIGEN), *at Bloemendaal*. Catalogus der bockerij; van Dr. S. van Persijn. Bloemendaal, 1878. 277 p. 8°.
Contains 3400 works.

NEWBURGH FREE LIBRARY. Catalogue of books, Jan. 1, 1878. Newburgh, N. Y., 1877. 440 p. O.

Dictionary. Title-a-liner. Has appended a "dictionary of pseudonyms," which are peculiarly arranged under *first* name, initial, or honorary title of pseud., as *Captain Rawdon Crawley*, C. O. Nevers, *Alice G. Lee*. L. E. J.

WAGENMANN, E. Catalog d. önologischen Bibliothek von Dr. Ad. Blankenhorn. [Aus Annalen d. Onol. Heidelb., Winter, 1878. 33 p. 8°. So m.

A continuation. See JOURNAL, v. 1, p. 295 (237).

Catalogo de los manuscritos de la Biblioteca del Noviciado de la Universidad.—*Revista de la Univ. de Madrid*, Jan.-Feb.

Hulsius and DeBry; by Justin Winsor.—*Literary World*, Feb., 1878. 2 cols.

A notice of the Lenox Library Contributions to a catalogue, No. 1.

Katalog d. Bibliothek des Klosters Allerheiligen in Schaffhausen XII. Jhdt.—*Neuer Anzeiger*, Jan. 2 p.

Note on the Boston Athenæum list of additions.—*Academy*, Feb. 16. ¼ col.

"Some of the annotations are perhaps more piquant than helpful. Thus, under the 'Memoirs of Charles' we have this: 'It is said that Charles' fierce attacks upon contemporaries—Gaucher calls his second volume "une mitrail-leuse"—were due to his disappointed ambition. He aspired to a seat in the Academy.'" [The criticism may be just, but the instance is ill chosen to prove it. It surely is 'helpful' to inform a reader that the book he is going to read is not wholly to be depended upon, because the author's opinions were determined by personal feeling.]

"Most of the notes are, however, really suggestive and instructive. We believe that the Boston Public Library was the first to adopt the plan. In England, the catalogues issued under the care of Dr. Crestadoro of the Manchester Free Library are notable for the same feature, though in this case chiefly restricted to displaying the contents or elucidating ambiguous titles of books."

[The notes in the Manchester catalogues and the Boston bulletins were little more than extensions of the title. The Boston Athenæum list of additions is distinguished from

any previous library bulletin by the fact that the notes are the main feature, instead of being added to perhaps every twentieth title, and that they are for the most part critical and distinctly designed to assist in the choice of books, instead of being merely explanatory. In this respect they resemble somewhat the notes on the literature of the quarter which were so useful in the *National Review* (London, 1855-64), and those which now appear under the head of "Books recommended to readers" in the *Nineteenth Century*.

And as there seems to be a general impression that Dr. Crestadoro was the first to add explanatory notes to titles in catalogues, it may be well to call attention to the notes in the catalogue of the New York Mercantile Library, published in 1837, which characterize the books under each subject, and mention others treating of the same subject but not yet in the library. There were also descriptive notes in the Ohio School Library catalogue of 1856. This does not at all detract from Dr. Crestadoro's merit, but simply shows how the feeling of similar wants leads men to similar inventions.]

c. Bibliography.

BAUQUIER, JOS. Bibliographie de la Chasse de Roland. Heilbronn, Henninger, 1877. 24 p. 8°. 1 m.

Mss., 10 nos.; eds. et trans., 30 nos.; diss., 81 nos.

Praised in the *Lit. Centralblatt*, 9 Feb., 14 col. Some additions are suggested; and it is mentioned that Bauquier intends to prepare a Bibliographie de la littérature en langue d'oc 1847-77, and a Catalogue des dictionnaires et des grammaires des patois d'oïl et d'oc.

EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE DE PARIS, 1878. Catalogue of the collective exhibit of the American book trade and of kindred interests. Paris, palais de l'Exposition, section américaine, 1878. 19 + 68 + 2 p. O.

Printed at the Riverside Press, Cambridge, and so well printed that it is itself an exhibit of American typography. Three prefaces on Book trade in America, Trade bibliography, and The library system, contributed by R. R. Bowker, appear in English and French; then follow lists of the exhibits of 23 publishing houses, with sketches of their history in English only.

HIRSCH, Lieut., and KOWALSKI, Lieut. Repertorium d. neueren deutschen Militär-journalistik. Berlin, Bath, 1878. 20 + 352 p. 8°. 3 m.

Indexes 15 of the chief military journals, beginning at 1860.

HOLDEN, EDW. S. Index catalogue of books and memoirs relating to nebulae and clusters, etc. (Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 311. Wash., 1877. ix. + 109 + 2 p. O.)

Reviewed in *Acad.*, Feb. 16, 1878, p. 150.

MADDEN, J. P. A. Lettres d'un bibliophile. 5e série, suivie d'un essai sur l'origine de l'imprimerie de Paris. Paris, Leroux, 1878. 8°. With Atlas, 15 fr.

Noticed in *Polybiblion*, Feb. 1878, 17 p. "Almost on every page M. Madden resolves some bibliographical problem."

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For instance, questions relative to the anagost (the person who dictated to the compositors, whose existence has been doubted), to the subterranean workshop of Gutenberg at Mayence, to logarithmic tables, to Caxton, to the house of Plantin at Antwerp, to the oldest press at Versailles, to the etymology of tramway, etc. The 'Essai sur l'origine de l'imprimerie à Paris' reviews and completes the labors of all previous authors on the subject, Naudé, André, Chevalier, Greswell, A. Taillandier, Aug. Bernard, Amb. Firmin-Didot. He announces the publication of a sixth series next autumn. Do what he may, it will be difficult for him to make his next volume more instructive than this."

REDLICH, C. Chr. Lessing-Bibliothek; Verzeichniss derjenigen Drucke, welche die Grundlage des Textes der Lessing'sche Werke bilden. Berlin, Hempel, 1878. 92 p. 8°. 1 m.

From Lessing's "Werke hrsg. v. Boxberger," u. s. w.

STATISTISCHE Uebersicht d. katholischen Zeitungen u. Zeitschriften d. gesammten Erdoberfläche. (Pages 273-324 of *WELT-RUNDschau* üb. die kath. Presse, Würzburg, L. Woerl, 1878, 8°.)

SIECHE, Dr. Richard. Zur Geschichte des Bucheinbands. Aus dem Archiv f. Gesch. des deutschen Buchhandels I. Lpz., Teubner, 1878. 57 p. O.

"The fruit of thorough and extensive studies."—*Neuer Anzeiger*.

UNFLAD, L. Die Schiller- u. Goethe-Literatur in Deutschland. Mit einem Anhang: Chronologie der Entstehung Goethe'scher Schriften. 2e Aufl. München, Unflad, 1878. 2 v., 2 l., 105 p. 8°. 3 m.

"The author has no claim to join the ranks of Goethe and Schiller bibliographers, as I have shown more at length in the *Börsenbl. f. d. deutsch. Buchh.*, no. 11, p. 155-6—'79. Petsholdt.

UZANNE, Octave. Caprices d'un bibliophile; avec un eau forte par Ad. Lalauze. Paris, E. Rouveyre, 1878. About 170 p. O.

The chief titles of these miscellanies are: Une vente de livres à l'Hôtel Drouot; Ma bibliothèque aux enchères; La gent bouquinier; Le quémandeur de livres; Les galantries du sieur Scarron; Le bibliophile aux champs; L'économisme; Le libraire du palais; Un tumulte dans une bibliothèque; Les catalogues; Le cabinet d'un érudit-bibliomane, etc.

WINKELMANN, Dr. Eduard. Bibliotheca Livonica historica; systemat. Verzeichniss d. Quellen u. Hilfsmittel z. Gesch. Estlands, Livlands u. Kurlands. 2. verm. Ausg. Berlin, Weidmann, 1878. 18 + 608 p. 32 m.

Bibliografia di Massimo d'Azeglio Tapparelli: da Ant. Vismara.—*Biblog. ital.*, 31 Jan., 15, 25 Feb. 2 + 1 + 1 col.

Der Buchhändler Bern. Quaritch in London.—*Neuer Anzeiger*, Mar. 1 p.

A notice of Q.'s lately published "Supplement."

Neueste Beiträge zur Faustliteratur.—*Neuer Anzeiger*, Feb. 5 p.

Professors' recent publications.—*N. Y. World*, April 15, 3 col.

Universal catalogue of printed books.—*Notes and q.*, Jan. 26.

The Historical Society of Berlin is to issue annual reports concerning the literature of history, which are to emphasize and expound all the really new facts discovered. The series will commence with the literature of the current year, and will be published in the spring of 1879.

MR. THOMAS ARNOLD is preparing for the press a catalogue of his extensive collection of works on Tobacco, its usages, cultivation, manufacture, etc., comprising upwards of 500 separate works.—*Acad.*

MR. R. CUST's work on the *Languages of the East Indies* will appear about Easter. It will contain bibliographical lists.—*Acad.*

D. Indexes.

In the *N. E. journal of education*, a librarian quotes from the *Educational Weekly* the following sentence: "We have decided to abandon the publication of an index to the *Weekly* for 1877; the actual need of such a thing is small, and it involves altogether too much delay and expense to obtain the type and plates necessary. We have the index prepared in manuscript, and part of it in type, but there is no printing-office in Chicago where 'sorts' enough are to be obtained to print it according to the complete plan which we had devised—so those who have waited for it before binding need wait no longer."

"Many books, otherwise of much value," says the librarian, "are rendered almost worthless for want of a proper index. So much has this been felt, that it has been a serious question whether copyright should not be withheld from a work not properly indexed. The Index Society, organized a few months ago in England, has met with the strongest commendation and support from literary men all through the world. Poole's Index to periodical literature is now being completed, to the joy of all intelligent readers, and yet the publisher of a weekly paper, filled with miscellaneous matter, printed a sentence like the above! If true that the need of such a thing is small, then the utter worthlessness of the paper is avowed, and why waste money in binding?"

"The plan devised must have been exceedingly complete, if Chicago has no printing-office capable of printing it! If other readers of the *Weekly* will express their opinion on this subject. I think the matter now in *ms.* may be brought to light. I, for one, shall certainly wait, for such a book without an index would be about as worthless and annoying a volume for a busy man as could well be conceived."

"To feel that a paragraph much wanted was printed some time during the year in the *Weekly*, with no means of finding it except a random turning of the leaves, is exhaustive of all the patience of an individual; but we poor librarians, victims of the ignorance of book-making manifested by some otherwise most intelligent people, must assist our readers to hunt up these stray paragraphs, and convert our brains into a substitute for the index that should have been printed by the publisher, we shall be excused if, on seeing such a sentence as the above, we write a little sharply, and sign ourselves indignantly,

"A LIBRARIAN."

PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

EDITED BY JAMES L. WHITNEY.

This department of the JOURNAL will contain the latest discoveries in regard to the authors of anonymous and pseudonymous books. Contributions are invited from all interested in making this list as complete and valuable as possible.

PSEUDONYMS.

George Washington Esop.—The author of the witty "Fables taken anywhere, anywhere out of the World" (N. Y., 1878), which first appeared in the *New York World*, is George T. Lanigan.

Crito Cantabrigiensis.—The author of "A vindication of the literary character of the late Professor Porson" (London, 1827) was Thomas Turton, D.D., Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge, Dean of Westminster, and Bishop of Ely.—*Notes and Queries.*

John Dangerfield—John Latouche.—The articles which have appeared in the *New Quarterly Magazine*, over the name John Dangerfield, are written by Oswald John Frederick Crawford, H.B.M. consul at Oporto, whose "Travels in Portugal" was published under the pseudonym "John Latouche."

Elpis Melena.—This is the pseudonym of Marie Espérance von Schwartz, author of the novel "Gemma oder Tugend und Laster" (München, 1877).

Enstrio Romano.—The author of "Odi barbare" (Bologna, 1877) is Giosuè Carducci.

Pay Fisher.—The angler's souvenir (London, 1835; new edition, 1877) is by William Andrew Chatto.—*Olphar Hamst.*

Henry Gréville is the pseudonym of Madame Émile Durand, née Mlle. Alice Fleury, born in Gréville, Manche (Normandie), France. The *Literary World* for April gives a sketch of this novelist.

Leland Searcher.—The author of "Will it come?" a story (Hyde Park, Mass., 1870), is William Wallace Hebbard, M.D.

Leto Pomponio.—The author of "The Vatican council," English translation (London, 1876), is said to be the Marchese Francesco Vitelleschi.—*Athenæum.*

Paul Rouillon.—Auguste Paul Poulet-Malassis, who has recently died, published the "Apropos d'une faience républicaine à la date de 1868" (Paris, 1868) under the above name.—*Lorenz.*

Sola.—The author of "An American girl, and her four years in a boy's college" (New York, 1878), is Olive San Louie Anderson, a graduate of the University of Michigan.

Stella.—"Sappho, a tragedy" (London, 1875) is by Estelle Anna Blanche Lewis.

Touchatout.—Léon Bienvenu, the *réducteur en chef* of the *Journal Tintamarre*, is publishing in numbers the "Histoire tintamarresque de Napoléon III."

Yorick.—This is the pseudonym of the advocate Pietro Ferrigni, who has lately published a book on Florence.—*Athenæum*.

ANONYMOUS WORKS.

The dark colleen (London and N. Y., 1875), and the *queen of Connaught* (London and N. Y., 1877), are by Harriet Jay.—*Bookeller*.

The tender recollections of Irene Macgillicuddy (N. Y., 1878), which was first published in *Blackwood's Edinburgh magazine*, is attributed to Lawrence Oliphant.

Two consciences, or conscience the moral law, and conscience the witness, etc. (Phila., 1870), is by William Dennis, of Philadelphia.

Vaticanism unmasked, or romanism in the United States, by a Puritan of the nineteenth century (Cambridgeport, 1877) was written by Joseph Warren Alden.

NOTES.

THE *Cincinnati Commercial* has published a list of the public and real names of two hundred actors and actresses.

THE recently published catalogue of the Newburgh (N. Y.) Free Library contains, in an appendix (pp. 423-440), a list of 717 pseudonyms.

THE Rev. J. Laing is actively engaged in the compilation of the "Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature of Great Britain," which was commenced by the late Mr. Halkett, of the Advocates' Library. Mr. Laing proposes to complete the examination this summer of the collections of the Bodleian Library, and then to exhaust the contents of the Mendham collection at the Law Society, and the library of the Athenæum Club. At the present time the volumes which have been collated can fall little short of twenty thousand.—*Academy*.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Readers are requested to send in answers or corrections of unsatisfactory answers given to any queries. Suggestions based on actual experience will be specially welcome. Note the worthlessness as carefully as the valuable, and thus avoid waste of time and money in trying what will be surely and speedily abandoned.

NOTES.

BUCKRAM BINDING.—The London School Board have adopted whole buckram, unfaced, for their school libraries. The Admiralty are now binding their sailors' libraries in faced instead of unfaced buckram. Several of the English free town libraries have had large parcels of books bound in the material. Mr. E. B. Nicholson, who implied in his paper before the late Conference, that whole buckram was dearer than half, wishes us to say that he judged from prices which his binders now state to have been accidental overcharges, that the cost is about the same, and that Mr. Trübner's prices are even less for whole than for half buckram; he intends, for the future, to adopt the full binding for all the lighter colors, which are the less liable to show stains. Mr. Bentley has issued Wedmore's "Pastorals of France" in whole buckram, and its appearance should certainly encourage other publishers to use the material.

COMPRESSING PERIODICAL LITERATURE.—A correspondent of the *Athenæum* suggests a remedy for the overcrowding of periodical sets in private and small libraries. He distributes the important contents of the various periodicals into distinct classified volumes, discarding the less desirable. During many years' process of classification he has compressed into about eighty volumes (of an average thickness of two and a half inches) the most valuable contents of perhaps 2000 volumes of magazines and reviews, bought in frequent instances at waste-paper prices. Collections of essays on "Folk Lore," "Greek Poetry," "Latin Poetry," "Early English Poetry," "Shakespeare," "Carlyle," "Ruskin," "Lord Macaulay," "Thackeray," "Dickens," "Shelley," and "Byron," on "Monasticism," "Language," etc., each volume of course labelled according to its special subject, are among the substantial results. An interesting feature in this method is, that sometimes, as in the case of Shelley, Keats, Byron, and Wordsworth, earlier and denunciatory criticisms are brought into correlation and contrast with the more impartial and sympathetic estimates of later days. As each number of a quarterly review is virtually an

aggregate of pamphlets, he suggests that they be so printed that each article could be detached without mutilation of the associated articles.

GUIDE BOARDS FOR CARD CATALOGUES.—These are usually made of white wood, the same size as the card, $5 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cm., and 3 to 5 mm. thick, and with edges bevelled. Some letter the guide words on the wood itself, but most cover the upper edge with paper 2 to 5 cm. wide pasted over on to the sides. This gives a better surface to write on. Mrs. Ada North, librarian of the State Library, Des Moines, Ia., says she finds a good substitute for lettering in using a wood card enough narrower than the catalogue card to read the heading of the next title. The block is thick enough to separate the cards, and if the headings to the titles are plainly written, nothing more is necessary. Others use a pasteboard card 3 or 4 mm. higher than the catalogue cards, and letter the guide words on the narrow piece seen above. This is cheap, and takes much less room in the drawers than wood, a practical question of importance. In either case, it is, to all libraries limited in space for their catalogue, often convenient, and improves the legibility if the guide words can be cut out of print, though a skilful letterer with the pen will give about the same legibility and greater neatness and uniformity. The Co-operation Committee prefer, as do most who have seen them, the zinc guide cards recommended.

A NEW PROFESSION.—Prof. J. W. Mallet, of the University of Virginia, proposes that the authorities of the British Museum and other prominent libraries should designate certain educated and trustworthy persons, not among their paid officers, whom they will admit to make researches among their books on behalf of persons at a distance; the names and addresses of such searchers, and rate of compensation to be advertised. A very useful profession would thus be created. Might not the experiment be made in this country also? The same person might receive a commission from several libraries.—*Nation*.

[The uniformly favorable reception accorded to this suggestion indicates that a new and valuable profession may grow from it. Let us have facts and farther suggestions on the point.—Ed.]

PASTE.—I think Mr. Durfee (v. 2., p. 66) need not have his bookbinder's paste sour so as to

"need renewing every few days." Try the following recipe: Mix your flour and water (cold) very thin. Stir thoroughly and dissolve all lumps. Then take a piece of alum, (the size of a hazel-nut to about a pint of paste), powder it up very fine and stir in. Take a piece of rosin about the same size, pulverize it finely and stir in also. Cook on a common cook stove, in a milk pan, until thoroughly done, stirring constantly to prevent burning. This will make paste that will not sour in years, in the hottest or dampest weather. When it dries too much to work well, add a little water. I have used this recipe for several years. It has always worked well. J. F. W.

"V." vs. ".".—In printing book numbers it is suggested that it is as easy to set a "v" as a ".", between book and vol. number. One is perfectly definite, the other may be mistaken—421v5 seems better than 421.5. The period is sometimes overlooked, or prints faint, and is hardly legible, while the v will be seen. This may also distinguish shelf from volume number.

QUERIES.

BONNANGE CARD SYSTEM.—How much of merit is there in the patent device for a card catalogue described on page 538 of the Government Report?

[The report gives clearly the merit of the system, and in this number is a note from England on the subject. The great expense and amount of room required seems likely to prevent its adoption to any extent. The results of experience are awaited with interest, for except the expense the plan would seem to have great merits. The Co-operation Committee think that the same purpose is served at a fraction of the expense, by the devices recommended by them. The saving in room is also an important point, and the claim that both sides of the patent card can be used is worthless, for the cardinal merit of the plan is the facility of keeping cards in strict alphabetical order, and this cannot be done when both sides are used.—Ed.]

MARKING CATALOGUES.—Will some one suggest a convenient system for noting in library and trade catalogues, books specially desirable for purchase?

[A good system is that used by some for marking passages in books read. The reader keeps in his hand a pencil, one end blue the other red, and marks by a vertical line, in the margin and as long as the passage, blue if he

strongly approves, and red if he dislikes or disagrees with the author. Some introduce other colors, as green, for a modification of blue, etc. The ? is a very common mark for doubt of statement or idea. Another system is the use of the digits or letters, marking the best 1 or *a*, and the poorest 9 (or *o*) or *z*, assigning intermediate numbers or letters for the various degrees between extremes. This admits easily of over refinement. Others give a significance to the numbers or letters, often using the letters as abbreviations, *e.g.*, on a book catalogue, *a* for *order*, *r* for *recommend*, *s* for *obtain as a gift*, etc. The advantage of the colors first suggested is their great distinctness. Books very desirable marked in blue, and the undesirable in red, make it easy to look through the catalogue. *Ed.*]

ENCOURAGING DONATIONS.—Cannot gifts to a library be increased by keeping each donation by itself on the shelves, thus making it prominent?

[This device for encouraging gifts has been adopted in several libraries, but seems very undesirable. The highest usefulness of a library requires books on the same subject to be brought together, regardless of donor. Put a neat plate in each volume given, with the name, etc. Then, for something even more prominent than the row of books on the shelves, to which quite probably the public has not access, a placard might be put up with the name of donor, and, if desired, a list of his gifts. A small marble slab might be used to advantage, or simply printed card-board. Any plan is better than keeping the books all by themselves, except in the case of special libraries or large collections.—*Ed.*]

ANSWERS.

TIME OF LOANS (20).—In the Boston Athenaeum the time was formerly seven days. Six or seven years ago, I introduced the practice of labelling the books according to their bulk and the time in which one might reasonably expect them to be read, seven, fourteen, and thirty days. Books which have been in the library more than a year can be kept out for thirty days and renewed nominally for another thirty,—but in practice, until some other person asks for them, when they must be returned. This system works well, especially for the newer books, better than one less elastic. It is possible that it lessens the circulation. But we care little for circulation and much for the convenience of our readers. I am not sure it would suit a library of a larger clientele. We have only a thousand proprietors. C. A. C.

GENERAL NOTES.

UNITED STATES.

AMERICAN LIBRARIES AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—In the United States Educational Exhibit at the Paris Exposition, under charge of Hon. J. D. Philbrick, the Bureau of Education has included the government report, some graphic views of the growth of public libraries in this country, and its considerable collection of library catalogues and reports, as also the bound first volume of the *JOURNAL*. The *JOURNAL* itself exhibits in connection with the American Book Trade Collective Exhibit, under charge of Mr. Em. Terquem, in the catalogue of which several pages are devoted to a brief description of the American library system, distinctive catalogues, etc. Copies of the catalogues, etc., described, and a representation from the "Bibliothecal Museum," are to be included in this last exhibit. These two exhibits, planned in ignorance of each other, will give a suggestive, though not an adequate, view of American libraries. The representation of French book and library interests will be very well worth attention.

ASTOR LIBRARY.—The trustees have appointed Mr. Robbins Little to succeed Mr. Brevoort as superintendent. He will take office May 1st. Mr. Little is a Yale graduate of '51, was made tutor in that college in 1871, but has for some time held an \$1800 clerkship in the War Department, Washington, being appointed from Rhode Island. He is not known to be of library experience, and it is understood that his appointment looks more especially to careful management of the finances of the library. Mr. Little will be the fifth executive of the Astor. Dr. J. G. Cogswell, its organizer, held office from 1848 to 1862; he was followed by Hon. Francis Schroeder, formerly U. S. Minister to Sweden, who remained in charge some nine years; Dr. E. R. Straznichy succeeded him, and, on his sudden death, in 1876, Mr. J. C. Brevoort was made superintendent. The office of librarian is distinct from the former, and is held by Mr. Frederick Saunders, who outranks, in length of service, any one in the library administration.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The bill for the reorganization of the government of the Boston Public Library has passed both houses, and received the approval of the Governor. By this bill the Board of Trustees consists of five citizens, appointed, one each year, by the Mayor, to hold office for five years, and one repre-

sentative each from the City Council and Board of Aldermen, designated annually by those bodies. Thus only a minority of the seven can be changed in any one year. Another improvement is that which gives the board the sole power of fixing salaries, and otherwise apportioning the appropriation. The Mayor has nominated W. W. Greenough, Richard Frothingham, Geo. B. Chase, and Weston Lewis, of the old board, and, Dr. Green having declined a renomination, Rev. Jas. Freeman Clarke, a new member. The two city bodies have appointed committees to nominate their respective representatives. There are no further public developments as to the appointment of a permanent superintendent.

BROOKLYN LIBRARY.—The "Mercantile Library Association of the City of Brooklyn" has applied to the Legislature for a change of name to the "Brooklyn Library," and a bill for the purpose has passed one house, if not, at this writing, both. At the twentieth annual meeting, March 28th, the president reported accessions, 2277 v.; worn out or sold, 165; total, 56,715, as follows: history and travels, 8424; religious, 4004; science and industrial arts, 4038; biography, 4608; natural history, 1303; fine arts, 1597; encyclopædias and collective works, 1435; philosophy, education, language, etc., 2052; political, social, and economic sciences, 3000; poetry, drama, essays, etc., 4320; fiction, 11,772; foreign languages, not elsewhere classified, 1875; volumes of periodicals, bound, 5436; miscellaneous, including duplicates, 2851. These figures will be especially interesting as bearing on Mr. Noyes' catalogue. The total circulation for 1877 was 129,298 v. The number of books taken out by each member of the library has increased steadily from an average of 30 in 1871 to 45 in 1877, or 50 per cent. in seven years. The Sunday attendance has been—ladies, 40; gentlemen, 2978. The membership has fallen off 128 with the hard times; the list stands: permanent members, by payment of \$500, 217; life members, by payment of \$100, 523; life members, by payment of \$50, 46; annual members, by payment of \$5 per year, or \$1.25 per quarter, 2112; total, 2898; extra subscriptions of \$3 each, 229. The property of this library is held by trustees, who elect their successors; the administration is in the hands of directors, elected by the permanent and life members of the Association, and other members who have paid dues for a specified number of years. The receipts were \$15,983.02; \$8834.94 was spent

for salaries; \$2443.16 for new books. Dr. Storrs' two lectures netted \$912. The change of name is well received; beside its abominable length, the old title was a misnomer, for the library has been for years what it now proposes to call itself, *the Brooklyn Library*, and not at all a *mercantile* library. There are several other libraries that might profit by this example. In changing, as in adopting, new names, there should be considered, first, after calling it what it really is, brevity. Then, unless for very weighty reasons to the contrary, the geographic name should be the first word of the legal title. People who search catalogues and lists for names of associations will appreciate the desirability of this.

CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.—The only progress made at this session of Congress toward providing for the urgent necessities of the great library of the government, has been the appointment of a Commission to report a plan and a site for increased accommodation. This Commission, through which it is hoped to unite the most important committees—those on Public Buildings and Grounds, and on the Library of Congress, consists of Senators Howe (Wis.), and Dawes (Mass.); Representatives, S. S. Cox (of N. Y.), and Cook (of Georgia), and Mr. A. R. Spofford, Librarian. We learn that having held several conferences the members of the Commission are expected to unite in a report in favor of a new building—location as yet undetermined. We are glad to add that there is no truth in the newspaper rumor that Mr. Spofford is contemplating a prolonged absence in Europe.

TOLEDO [O.] PUBLIC LIBRARY.—This is a victim "of the very proper spirit of economy" which is spreading through the country. Its city appropriation falling short, the trustees have invited the citizens to come to the relief. They specially ask contributions of books that can be spared, and give as an argument for support the fact that 7634 members enrolled drew, in 1877, 101,691 books from its shelves, a pretty good argument in a city no larger than Toledo.

BURLINGAME, [KAN.] LIBRARY.—Four hundred volumes of well selected books make a beginning, half a mill assessment helps to increase a little each year, and the community seem inclined to foster the nursling, though they have only 1000 inhabitants.

THE Dedham Public Library reports number of vols., 6140; invested cash fund, \$8275; circulation, 1876, 23,450.

MRS. JOHN DESHLER, of Columbus, Ohio, who died recently, bequeathed \$100,000 for the building and support of Columbus Law Library and for lectures.

MR. A. H. STEPHENS presented a resolution in the House, March 20th, looking to the preparation of a complete index of the journals of the House from the foundation of the Government.

MR. POOL is making for the library of the Y. M. C. A., New York, a collection of the reports and documents of the various religious, benevolent, and missionary institutions, city, State, and national. The aim is to obtain and bind complete sets, which may be consulted by all interested.

THE Women's Hotel of Mrs. Stewart, opened this month in New York City, contains a library of 2500 v. for the free use of boarders; but "books must not be taken from the library room." The removal of this restriction, and a wide-awake librarian, should make this library one of the most useful in the country.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ADOPTIONS OF THE ACT.—The burgesses of Wrexham have adopted the Free Libraries Act without a dissenting voice. At the meeting at Hawick, an amendment was moved to the effect that the act be not adopted, but no one was found to second the amendment, and the adoption was made unanimous. At St. Albans there was a stormy meeting and a poll was demanded by those opposed to the object, at the close of which 190 votes had been recorded in favor of adoption and 27 against it. The corporation of Preston has at last almost unanimously adopted the act. Preston was almost the only Lancashire town of any importance that had not a Free Library. A library at Wednesbury, Staffordshire, has just been opened consequent on the adoption of the Free Libraries Act, at a meeting held in November, 1873.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT IN LONDON.—The Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee, whose letter to the London Vestries had been shelved by the Vestries of Islington, Marylebone, and St. Martin, and had been met by an unfavorable resolution in that of St. Pancras, have begun to strike "pay gravel." On April 5th, the Hackney Vestry after discussing the letter for two hours, voted by 38 to 13 "that the opinion of the inhabitants be taken as to the desirability, or otherwise, of establishing a

Free Library in this parish, under the provisions of the Public Libraries Acts." The Committee had such good hopes of Hackney that they had resolved to get the parish polled under any circumstances, and their indefatigable secretary, Mr. E. B. Nicholson, had already been organizing a local committee; but they hardly expected that the Vestry would give their official patronage to the movement by a majority of 3 to 1. The local committee have begun work, and a public meeting will shortly be held, after which the poll will probably be taken with as little delay as possible. On April 11 some of the leading inhabitants of Whitechapel formed themselves into a committee for preventing the adoption of the Act by the parish. As the maximum rate would only yield £450 to £500, the secretary of the Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee, Mr. E. B. Nicholson, who had been invited to attend, offered to ask the leading publishers for presents of books toward starting the library, and his applications have, hitherto met with the most cordial response.

COPYRIGHT RETURNS TO BRITISH LIBRARIES.—The following schedule represents the accessions of the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, under the Copyright Act, during 1877:

No. of Works, 3279, in volumes.....	3,874
" " Pamphlets.....	1,020
" " Parts of Periodicals.....	6,877
" " Pieces of Music.....	1,439

Total number of articles.....14,110

It might add to the interest to compare this return with that given in the *Publishers' Circular* for December, bearing in mind that the *Publishers' Circular* gives only pamphlets of importance, and no music and, on the other hand, that we do not receive all the editions of books. How far this represents all the products of the press for the year it is impossible to determine, as we have as yet, in this country, no authoritative or reliable return. Mr. Axon's paper on publishing statistics, read before the Manchester Statistical Society in June, 1877, should be read in connection with this subject.

J. T. CLARK.

PURE LITERATURE SOCIETY, LONDON.—Each month about one thousand parcels of periodicals are sent out from the office of this society, the number of papers thus supplied being upwards of thirty thousand monthly. Nearly five thousand libraries, to the value of £40,000, have been supplied at half price to working-men's institutions, young men's associations,

parochial school boards, village and other lending libraries, also to hospitals, workhouses, and soldiers' and sailors' libraries.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY.—The new general catalogue is now completely written out, with the exception of the article "Bible." Prof. Ethé's Catalogue of the Persian mss. has gone to press. Rev. J. W. Nutt, one of the sub-librarians, is about to publish a Hebrew commentary on Isaiah, by Rabbi Eliezer, of Beaugency, contained in a unique ms. now in the Bodleian. Dr. Neubauer, the other sub-librarian, has seen his recent discovery, the Chaldee text of the book of Tobit, through the press, and the work may be expected towards Easter.

SUNDAY OPENING.—At a meeting recently held in Manchester, to discuss the question of opening Free Libraries on Sundays, the result of the Sunday opening in Birmingham, as given by the chairman of the Libraries Committee in that town, was stated. He says that "the Library and Art Gallery are opened on Sunday afternoons and evenings. The success has been complete, and there are many who were thoroughly opposed to the movement at its commencement whose opposition has now ceased, in the light of experience of its working."—*Athenæum*.

MR. W. HARRISON AINSWORTH has just presented to the Chetham Library, Manchester, a life-size portrait of himself.

THE honor of knighthood has been conferred on Samuel Ferguson, Q.C., LL.D., Deputy-Keeper of the Records, Dublin.

MR. E. A. BOND, Keeper of the mss. in the British Museum, has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Society of Literature.

DR. ANDREA CRESTADORO, the chief librarian of the Manchester Free Library, has been appointed a Knight of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

THE two new Trustees of the British Museum, chosen in place of the late Sir David Dundas and the late Sir W. Stirling-Maxwell, Bart., are Sir Henry Rawlinson, K.C.B., and Sir John Lubbock, Bart.

FRANCE.

BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE.—The National Library has finished the inventory and classification of the books about Montaigne belonging to the Payen collection. The Joly de Fleury collection will also be bound in 2500 volumes, and be ready for use before the

end of 1878. It contains much valuable matter relating to the judicial and administrative institutions of the *ancien régime*. It has recently received as a gift from the Duc de la Prémolle, a ms. of the thirteenth century, adorned with 30 admirable miniatures. Mss. of the thirteenth century are very rare.

M. LEOPOLD DELISLE has just printed, a Paris, some extracts of mss. relating to French history, which he made at the British Museum during his visit on occasion of the conference of librarians in London.

A LIBRARY of descriptive zoology has been annexed to the public museum of Lille.

GERMANY.

THE German Catholic publishers of Paderborn propose to bring up the quality of religious fiction, said to be low, by offering prizes. Schöningh offers \$500 for the best Catholic novel, \$350 for the next best, and \$300 for the third in rank. Two other publishers each offer higher figures, so there are nearly \$4000 to be distributed from that one town as prizes.

HOLLAND.

ROTTERDAM LEESKABINET.—Heer D. Mulder-Bosgoed, whose "*Bibliotheca ichthyologica et piscatoria*" was noticed in the JOURNAL, v. 1, p. 185, has been making a card catalogue of the Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet, and has adopted Prof. Otis Robinson's method of preventing displacement of the cards, running a rod through holes in the lower margin of the cards, a method which we fancy will be found much superior to the *système Bonnange*.

THE *Nieuwsblad f. d. boekhandel* quotes the late report of Harvard University Library with wonder at the generosity of Americans towards their libraries, and, with reference to the University Library of Amsterdam, says to the burghers, "Go thou and do likewise."

SWITZERLAND.

THE City Library of Bern has just acquired from Grossrath Bürki, partly as a present and partly at a nominal price, a number of valuable mss. and books.

PORTUGAL.

THE sale of the books of the late Innocencio da Silva, the well-known author of the Portuguese Bibliographical Dictionary, has been going on at Lisbon for many weeks. Several of the rare works and mss. have brought prices almost unprecedented in Portugal.

Standard and Popular Biographies

MEMOIR OF WILLIAM FRANCIS BARTLETT.

By FRANCIS W. PALFREY. With portrait of Gen. Bartlett. One vol., 16mo, gilt top, \$1.50.

As Galahad pure, as Merlin sage,
What worthier knight was found
To grace in Arthur's golden age?
The fabled Table Round?

The more than Sidney of our day,
Above the sun and wrong
Of civil strife, he heard away
The angel's Advent song!

J. G. WHITTIER.

The brilliant career and chivalrous character of General Bartlett, which inspired one of Mr. Whittier's noblest and tenderest poems, in the *Atlantic Monthly* for March, profoundly impressed all his countrymen. His brilliant record as a soldier, and his conspicuously wise and patriotic efforts to bind North and South in new and lasting union, after the war was over, won for him the admiration and love of the whole country. General Palfrey, who was his comrade in war and his intimate friend, has told the story of his life so as to enlist eager attention. A fine portrait of General Bartlett adds to the interest of the book.

A noble record of a most chivalrous man. Massachusetts has counted him among the most brilliant of her heroes; but this memoir shows the tender and religious side of his character, and the private letters admit one without reserve to the earnest and sacred thoughts that, while the writer lived, were known only to those dearest to him.—*Boston Advertiser*.

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The series, with the accompanying essays, has come to be regarded as the most delightful set of republications that we have had in this country.—*Hartford Courant*.

This series of Autobiographies is a real acquisition to that large class of readers who enjoy this most fascinating department of literature. Some of those already published are not otherwise accessible to most Americans, and hardly any of them can be had in any other form so cheaply or so well edited.—*Worcester Spy*.

RAPHAEL AND MICHELANGELO.

A Critical and Biographical Essay. By CHARLES C. PERKINS. Many illustrations, including several heliotypes. 8vo, \$5.

The long devotion of Mr. Perkins to the study of art has borne noble fruit in this beautiful volume. The idea of combining in one work a series of interlinked sketches of the two great representative artists of the age of Julius II. and Leo X. was in every respect fortunate; for they respectively illustrate power and beauty, sportive and earnest labor, as no other contemporaries. . . . His style is that of a scholar and a man of taste—simple, lucid, graceful, and even throughout. It has much of the quality of that of Hermann Goltz, in his two similar biographies. The profuse illustrations—although some of them are rather coarsely printed—are a positive boon to the reader.—*New York Tribune*.

A faithful and admiring essay, in which the incidents of the lives of Raphael and Michelangelo are narrated with sufficient minuteness for the purposes of ninety-nine in every one hundred readers, combined with a critical commentary on their marvellous achievements, so distinct in their quality, yet in each case so abounding in genius of the rarest excellence, which will be a welcome aid to that great throng who, in this country, are nearly awakened to the desire of knowledge of the secrets of beauty in art.—*Boston Advertiser*.

Scholarly, very useful and entertaining volume.—*Hartford Courant*.

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If Mr. Sweetser's work continues as good as it has thus far been, these little biographies will take a place which nothing as yet has filled, and will be invaluable aids to a study always fascinating, and happily gaining more and more ground among the cultivated classes in this country. Indeed, such a venture as his would hardly have been looked at by an American publishing house ten years ago, while all books about artistic life and struggle are now read with avidity.—*Library Table*.

Every volume is fresh proof of Mr. Sweetser's admirable fitness for the task he has undertaken.—*Louisville Courier*.

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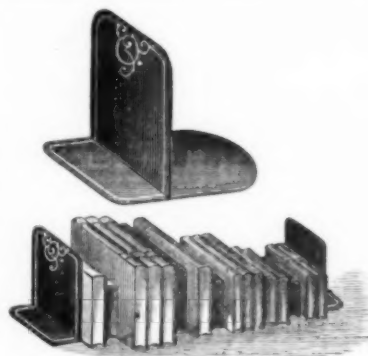
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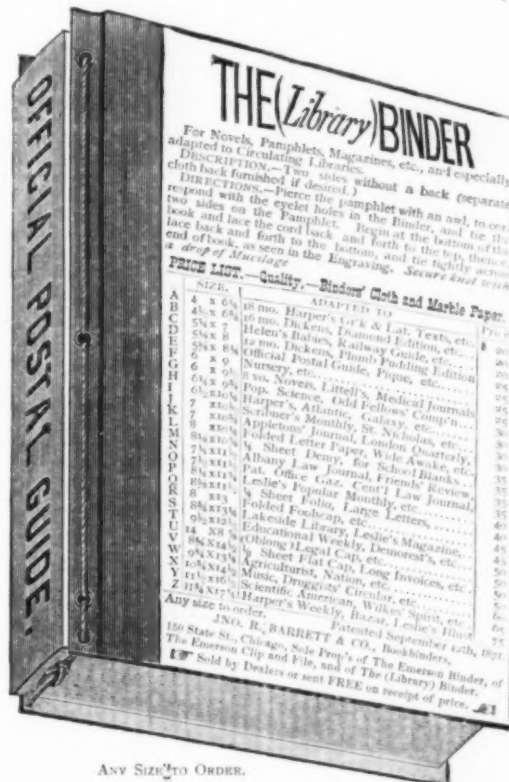
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